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VOL. XXIV

HISTORY OF KIDLINGTON, ETC.

Oxford

HORACE HART, PRINTER TO THE UNIVERSITY

THREE OXFORDSHIRE PARISHES

*A HISTORY OF KIDLINGTON
YARNTON AND BEGBROKE*

BY

MRS. BRYAN STAPLETON

KID-LING-TON

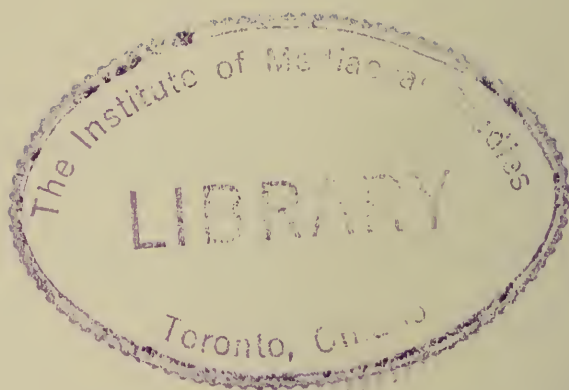


Oxford

PRINTED FOR THE OXFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

1893

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APR 15 1974

P R E F A C E

THE History of the three parishes of Kidlington, Yarnton and Begbroke, now put before the public, is the result of several years of thought and research, undertaken in the hope of interesting others in a work which has given much genuine pleasure to the author.

This part of Oxfordshire is happy in its associations, whether in regard to the general history of our country, in its connexion with the wealthiest abbeys of the kingdom, its contiguity to the several royal residences in the neighbourhood, or in its vicinity to the University of Oxford.

From each of these points of view much interest may arise ; and from the whole, when brought together, the aspect of our villages may derive an importance little thought of by the casual passer-by.

The authorities and sources of information from which these notes have been compiled are fully acknowledged in the text ; but to the living references, who have so kindly and ungrudgingly given their help, the author most gratefully offers her thanks.

To the Rev. W. W. Jackson, Rector of Exeter College, who, as successor to the Rev. Dr. Lightfoot, so generously renewed his permission for her to peruse the documents in his keeping referring to Kidlington and Yarnton ; and to the Rev. C. W. Boase, M.A., the Librarian of the College, who has been

unfailing in his kindness; also to the Heads of Queen's, All Souls and Merton; to Falconer Madan, Esq., of Brasenose and the Bodleian Library; to the Rev. G. Downes, Rector of Begbroke, and many of the clergy of various parishes¹, from whom information has been asked, and other friends in the neighbourhood, who have courteously given their aid; and to the officials of the Clarendon Press, for their kind patience with so inexperienced a writer as the author;—her grateful acknowledgements are due.

That some other person with a love for the county of their adoption may follow up these efforts to a more worthy conclusion is the sincere wish of the writer.

The Map accompanying this book may require a few words of explanation to account for the names of certain places marked upon it. The basis for the whole is the Ordnance Map, each parish being supplemented from maps belonging to each, containing the old names of many of the fields and lanes. An old 'Terrier' of the Vicarage land in Kidlington has also been of much assistance in recalling the names of the old open Fields now almost forgotten. The numbers marked refer to the same numbers used upon each map and principally point out the Charity lands in Kidlington.

M. H. A. STAPLETON.

Oxford, December, 1892.

¹ In addition, the writer desires especially to record her obligation to the late Vicar of Yarnton, the Rev. J. A. Balleine, for his help and kindness during several years of her researches.

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Vignette on Title-page, for explanation see p. 59.
 Coloured Map at end of Volume.



INTRODUCTION

THE area included in the three parishes, of which this book attempts the history, contains the space of 7000 acres and is bounded by the rivers Cherwell and Isis, while it embraces some of the most interesting spots in the county, outside the City, of Oxford.

The ancient work close to the church of Begbroke and known as 'the Round or Begbroke Castle,' although in the parish of Bladon, appears to have been a centre towards which many of the old roads of the neighbourhood converge. This mound has been a subject of interest and curiosity to archæologists from Leland downwards, some considering it to be Roman, others Danish, from its circular shape. Towards it points the old 'Salt Street' entering Kidlington parish at Shipton after crossing the Cherwell at Tackley Ford.

The 'Salt Streets'¹ are among the most ancient monuments of the country, and were used for the conveyance of salt from the inland works at Droitwich to the sea or up the Thames from the coast salt-pans. There were two branches leading respectively to the south and east coasts and known as the Upper and Lower Salt Way, besides another going to London, upon which Begbroke Castle is situated. Along this trackway the names of fields in Kidlington parish show the sites of ancient settlements.

Another road apparently overlooked, known by the name of 'Streatfield,' can still be traced across the fields from Begbroke Castle to Water Eaton. Hearne mentions the discovery of a Roman villa

¹ Beesley's History of Banbury, p. 33, note 38.

at Water Eaton, but it seems to have been forgotten, and when Warton wrote his *History of Kiddington*¹ he emphatically denied the existence of any such road. But a certain 'Streatfield Lane' is still remembered in Kiddington. It led past the south end of Gosford by 'Streatfield Brake' across what is now the canal where a bridge still preserves the footpath to 'Sturtfield'² in Yarnton. The lane was absorbed in the London and North-western Railway and their old station where the line crosses the Oxford and Banbury road marks the site and bears the name³.

The Saxon name for Yarnton, meaning the Dwelling Place, seems to show that the spot had long been the metropolis of the district. When the ground was first opened for the construction of the railway in 1854⁴ there were brought to light relics of the past deep hidden in the gravel, mighty bones of long extinct animals, and above them in profusion and extending towards Begbroke for a considerable distance the remains of the early dwellers upon the spot. Pit-dwellings and graves of long-forgotten people and burials of old Saxons. These discoveries were made in a succession of years down to 1876, according as gravel or cuttings were required by the railway.

Leland⁵ looked upon the 'Round Castle' as Roman and as an outpost upon the road from Stonesfield to the standing camp at Alchester⁶, while Dr. Plot considered it as Danish⁷. In support of his opinion we read in the Ensham Charter that the Danes ravaged these parts. The truth may be that each in turn occupied the ancient post fortified by the old dwellers on the soil.

Kidlington parish is crossed throughout its whole length by another Roman road known as the 'Port Way.' It enters the parish by the ford at Hampton Poyle, crosses the Crofts, and runs along the present high road where we meet it again as 'Portstrete,' fixing the limits of Cutslowe, and so to the town or 'Port.' Upon this road and around the church old Kidlington must have lain. Another name towards the south-west of the village cannot have been fortuitous, the

¹ P. 61.

² No. 30 on map of Yarnton.

³ The Company ran an omnibus from this station to Oxford in 1851, preceding the completion of the line.

⁴ See Appendix.

⁵ Itin. Oxon. 1712.

⁶ Cf. 'Langford Lane' and 'Paddy's Gap,' in Kiddington parish.

⁷ Nat. Hist. Oxon, p. 336, edition 1677.

‘Round Ham,’ but of this nothing can be said beyond the fact that it stands upon the road to the ‘Round Castle.’

In the year 1840 while digging stone to the north-east of the church an ancient well was discovered. The walls were well and evenly built, and at the bottom under a leaning stone was found a small Roman urn. The soil in the well was filled with bones and broken red and white crockery, and abundance of coins was found all around. The spring of water proved to be fresh and plentiful, and for many years was used by the neighbouring people. In the rock were many traces of dwellings, flues, and cells. Earthen ramparts were still traceable, but these may possibly have dated from the Civil Wars, as from tradition we are told that ‘Hampton was all blown to pieces during the wars.’ From the Yarnton Register we learn that Kidlington and Yarnton both suffered from a fire in 1638. These two circumstances may probably account for the disappearance of the houses along this way; the breaking up of the manor in the seventeenth century also led to building in other parts, and accounts for the scattered appearance of the town.

Turning now to later times the church history of the parishes of Kidlington with its members and of Yarnton centres round the story of the rise and fall of the great Abbeys of Ensham, Osney and Rewley and the Priory of St. Frideswide’s, while Begbroke was under a lay patron.

The secular interests were bound up with the powerful Norman Fees of d’Oiley, St. Wallery, Wallingford, and Ludlow. Thus they remained until the cruel day of the dissolution of the monasteries and the attainder of the Duke of Suffolk which brought both spiritual and temporal jurisdiction into the hands of King Henry VIII.

Henceforth the manors no longer claimed as their lords the great abbots and barons of the kingdom, but were parcelled out among the King’s favourites to be disposed of as they willed, and in the case of Kidlington fell into the hands of divers families who had risen to competency either through trade or by holding emoluments under the colleges of Oxford.

The spiritual advowsons shared a better fate. Sir William Petre confided Yarnton and Kidlington to the care of Exeter College. Begbroke remained in the hands of the lord of the manor.

KIDLINGTON IN DOMESDAY BOOK.

Vol. i. p. 158.—('Robert d'Oiley). The same Robert holds Chedelintone. *There* are 14 hides. Land of 12 carucates. Of this land there are in demesne 3 hides, and *there* are 3 ploughs with 2 slaves and 32 villeins with 8 bordars. They have 4 ploughs. *There* is a meadow 3 furlongs in length and 2 in breadth. Pasture 4 furlongs in length and 3 in breadth. Wood 3 furlongs in length and the same in breadth. There is a Mill of 30 shillings. It was worth £8 now £14.'

Vol. i. p. 160.—'Siward the huntsman, holds of the King $2\frac{1}{2}$ hides in Chedelintone. Land of 2 carucates. These he holds in demesne with 1 slave and 3 bordars. *There* are 3 acres of meadow. It was worth 40 shillings. Siward himself held freely in the time of King Edward.'

There is some confusion in the Domesday entries between Kidlington and Chadlington, owing to the same name being used for both. As we know that Siward held Cutslow, may we not suppose him to have held this land contiguous to it, viz. GOSFORD?

WATER EATON IN DOMESDAY.

Vol. i. p. 158.—'The same Robert holds Etone. *There* are 5 hides. Land of 5 carucates. Besides these hides he has of inland $3\frac{1}{2}$ hides which never paid tax. *There* are 26 villeins with 7 bordars, they have 9 ploughs; and *there* a mill of 15 shillings, and 3 fisheries of 12 shillings. *There* a meadow 10 furlongs in length and the same in breadth. Pasture as much. It was worth £6, now 100 shillings.'

THRUP IN DOMESDAY.

Vol. i. p. 159.—'The son of Wadard holds of Roger (de Iveri). Trop. *There* are 3 hides. The land is of 6 carucates. Now in demesne 2 carucates with 1 slave, and a mill of 6 shillings, and the same of pasture. It was worth and is worth £6. Leuui holds it as the man of Stigand (Archbishop).'

E R R A T A



- Page 14. In eleventh line from bottom, *for* Cudlyington *read* Cudlyngton.
- „ 41. Fourth line from the bottom, *for* Winwich *read* Winwick.
- „ 44. At the end of line 13, *for* to *read* the.
- „ 57. In third line from bottom, *for* 'Trillowe of Ames and his wyfe' *read* 'Trillowe and Ames his wyfe'.
- „ 59. In first line after Tomb *add a comma*.
- „ 70. In note 2, *for* Bullindoon *read* Bullindon.
- „ 76. In sixth line, *for* Thomas Almonde Taylor *read* Thomas Almonde, tailor.
- „ 86. In Smith Pedigree, Joseph Smith = Lydia, dau. of Joshua Barney, *not*. Bavnay.
- „ 88. In Smith Pedigree, *supply* = *between the names Humphrey and Mary*.
For issue to this marriage see Pedigree, p. 358.
- „ 118. In seventh line, *for* 6 ae *read* 6 ac.
- „ 125. Note 1. For Stratfield Lane see p. xvi. *instead of* History of Yarnton.
- „ 168. Note. *For* spanned *read* paved.
- „ 178. In top line, *for* one *read* our.
- „ 180. Line 10, *delete* Rawlinson *and read the sentence*—'Sir John Lenthall had a good estate at Blechendon at the time, and his father-in-law, Sir Thomas Temple, &c.'
- „ 213. Line 12, *for* pastoral cross *read* pectoral.
- „ 214. In the note 3, the figures No. 1, 2, 3, 4 refer to the above list, Gybbes, Eyers, Barnarde, and Shepherd respectively.
- „ 215. Line 12, *for* as *read* that.
- „ 236. Note. *For* The Vicar and a manse *read* The Vicarage Manse.
- „ 334. Geoffrey *Denthor*; it seems probable that this name should be *Deuthor*.
- „ 248. In note, the reference figures should be pp. 260 and 262.
- „ 288. Line 10 from bottom, *for* services *read* service.

Since this book has been in print the following have come to hand:—

ROYAL LETTERS ADDRESSED TO OXFORD, ed. O. Ogle, 1892, p. 339, Exemplification of a trial before a jury at Abingdon, 23 Sept. 1426, of a presentment made at Oxford 9 Aug., by Gosford and Kidlington, of a nuisance against the Town of Oxford for allowing 50 feet of the highroad at Greenditch to be flooded and impassable. The jury find that the Town is not liable for the repairs.

TENTH REPORT OF 'HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION,' App. Part V. MSS. of the Marquess of Ormonde, Kilkenny Castle.

In the above will be found several references to Captain John Morton and the payment and disbanding of his Company. For his Epitaph see p. 97 of this book.

THREE OXFORDSHIRE PARISHES.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

- { *Page 1.* 'The gift of the church of Chesterton to Osney.'
{ *Page 15.* 'The manor of Chesterton, held by Sir . . . Bardolph &c.'
{ *Page 22.* 'John Trillowe, Knight, was seized of Chesterton.'

Two Oxfordshire parishes were formerly known by the name of 'Cestreton,' and naturally some confusion has arisen between them. Chesterton near Bicester and Chastleton upon the borders of Gloucestershire are the names by which they are now known. Each village had its church dedicated to St. Mary, and each had been presented to Osney Abbey by the d'Oiley family.

In Dugdale [Mon. Ang. vol. 6, p. 254] is printed the Confirmation of various gifts to the Abbey dated 28th February, 13 Edward II (1320). Among these Charters occurs the following:—

' . . . Nec non donationem quam Bardulphus filius et hæres Rogeri filii Bardulphi de Cestreton in Henemers per cartam suam fecit ecclesiæ prædictæ de illo tenemento cum pertinentiis, quod Margeria avia sua tenuit in dotem in dicta Cestreton,' &c., &c.

There is evidence extant that previous to the above date John de Trillowe held land in Cestreton in Henemers, the present Chastleton, and moreover one of the same name founded a Chantry there attached to the church. Hence it appears almost certain that when these two names occur in connexion with 'Cestreton' we must understand it to refer to Chastleton.

Page 46. 'Heywood, Executor to Humphrey Smith.'

From an epitaph in the church of Forest Hill we gather that one of the daughters of Thomas and Mary Smith of Harnhill, Gloucestershire,

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To be inserted in vol. xxiv.

and of Kidlington, married Francis Heywood. One of this family served as High Sheriff in 1733; a large family was left. See Davenport, *Lords Lieutenants and Sheriffs*, p. 80.

Page 65. 'The will of William Tempest,' &c.

In Foley's 'Records of the Society of Jesus' [vol. 3, p. 402] we read: 'Father Robert Tempest, Pro. Theol. at Rheims, was nephew to Dr. Robert Tempest of Somerton, Oxon, Dr. of Laws and a zealous Catholic, who being obliged to leave England in the 1st year of Queen Elizabeth for opposing the Reformation, and retiring into Flanders, lived there in great esteem. He was a native of Durham.' We do not know how Dr. Tempest became connected with Somerton; the object of this note is to show that the residence of members of the Tempest family at so early a date in Somerton could not have influenced the preferment of the claim to the Barony of Scales by the same family, their claim being based upon a marriage of much later date; consequently the inference that the Registers of Somerton were taken up to the House of Lords in connexion with these Tempest extracts is erroneous.

Page 151. The Editor very much regrets that owing to inaccurate information a statement has been made relating to the graves of the Smith family. It appears certain that no such desecration took place, and that every possible supervision was exercised at the time by a fully responsible person.

Page 157. Upon a tombstone, *for* 'Eliza Anne Lightfoot' read 'Elizabeth Anne Lightfoot.'

Page 156. In reference to the names of Kete and Cupper in connexion with Kidlington, the following extract will help to elucidate matters. It will be remembered that the Cuppers had a family monument in the church, and in all probability had a house in the village.

[*State Papers, Elizabeth, Dom., vol. 75, No. 91—Public Record Office.*]
1st June, 6th of Elizabeth (1564).

'Parcel of lands late in the possession of John Kete, gen. in co. of Oxon, viz.

'The Manor of Chakendon, &c. . . . and in Kidlington; Rent without farm of one Messuage without tenement and one Curtilage and

one Close of land belonging to the same, containing by estimation one plough¹ and a half, called the "Hermitage of the Frice" with all appertaining to it. Also one pasturage without enclosure containing by estimation 60 acres called 'the Frice close,' with all belonging to it in Kidlington aforesaid; formerly portion of the possessions of the lately dissolved Monastery of Oseney in the County aforesaid. Examined by the Supervisor above named. The Rent to be paid half yearly at Lady Day & Michaelmas. £6. 16. 4.'

At the head of the document John Cupper is described as 'Supervisor of all lands in the county of Oxford, under the Wardship of the Queen.'

Page 176, line 22. For 'Crest of portstrete' read 'erest' = first.

Page 229. We may here add that Mr. Swete served as High Sheriff for Oxfordshire in the year 1722. Owing to eccentric bequests his will was set aside on the plea of insanity. Davenport, u. s. p. 79.

Page 287, line 28. 'Sir William Spencer's Park.'

Yarnton was one of the ancient Deer Parks of the County. See Davenport, u. s. p. 101. Also see back of page 211, line 9, mention of 'the Park of the Earl of Cornwall.'

Page 290 and Spencer Pedigree. 'Sir Francis Keyte of Mickleton.' This is a wrong description. Francis Keyte, Esquire, was younger brother to Sir John Keyte of Elrington, Bart. He had a separate estate at Hidcote Bartrim, a hamlet of Mickleton, where he built himself a handsome house, now reduced, like Yarnton Manor, to the condition of a farmhouse. Over the door are the arms of Keyte impaling Spencer, with the inscription above, 'F. K. 1663.' Alice his wife is buried in the chancel of Mickleton church.

Hidcote house passed through his daughter Alice to the Dighton or Deighton family. It too had the reputation of being haunted until the end of the last century, when the ghost seems to have been laid by the demolition of the wing of the house affected.

Many notices of the Spencers appear in 'Wood's Life and Times,' ed. Clark.

Page 357. Pedigree of May, Mann, &c.

The following is from Pepys' Diary (Braybrooke). It shows us one of our Kidlington friends engaged in a little intrigue:—

¹ 'unam acram (?).'

‘30th July, 1660. . . . The Swordbearer of London, Mr. Man, came to ask for us, with whom we sat late, discoursing about the worth of my office of Clerke of the Acts, which he hath a mind to buy, and I asked him four years’ purchase. . . . 6th August. This night Mr. Man offered me £1000 for my office of Clerke of the Acts, which made my mouth water; but yet I dare not take it till I speak with my Lord to have his consent.’

Pepys does not tell us whether he completed the bargain.

A correspondent has expressed some regret that the date of founding the Chapel at Water Eaton has not been given.

The Editor shares his regret at being unable to discover any record of the Chapel. The services were taken, under an arrangement with Col. Sawyer, by one of the Curates of Kidlington for a payment of £50 a year.

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THREE OXFORDSHIRE PARISHES.

FURTHER ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

THE following lines have in the main been contributed by the kindness of Mr. Henry Hughes of Oxford, who, from his early connexion with Kidlington School, is well qualified to supplement many details in the former history:—

The Whitsun ales were kept up at Hampton Poyle until 1841, by which time they had sunk to a drunken revel in which a hired person from Oxford was carried about upon a wooden horse. In that year a high flood covered the meadows, and men plied for hire to carry the Kidlington people and their visitors across upon their backs at the rate of 3*d.* per head. Floods were far more common then than in later years.

The village school which existed early in this century was kept by Mr. Harwood, great-grandfather to the present City Librarian, near the Black Horse, until the Rev. Ed. Feild erected the thatched school-rooms on the site of the present substantial buildings. Mr. and Mrs. Nutt, cousins of Mr. Josiah Nutt, schoolmaster, of Littlegate House, Oxford, were the first teachers under Mr. Feild.

Mr. John Allen, the founder of the Kidlington 'Classical and Commercial Academy,' began life in the trade of his ancestors, and in addition he used to walk to and from Oxford in the afternoon, bringing muffins and other delicacies for the social teas of the better classes, and on Sundays he was employed by the curate, the Rev. B. P. Symons, to keep the boys in order during sermon time, for which service the future Warden of Wadham, with his usual liberality, taught him to read. Upon the strength of this meagre education and an opportune legacy Mr. John Allen thought himself competent to set up a scholastic establishment on a large scale, on his own account. He built an imposing school house, which he continued to carry on by the aid of two hired teachers (he never taught personally) somewhat successfully for many years. He also established his sister, Miss Mary Anne Allen, as mistress of a 'Young Ladies' Seminary' in the house opposite his own school. At the end he died in St. Aldate's, Oxford, in great poverty. His school premises were bought by the Rev. Joseph

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To be inserted in vol. xxiv.

Dodd, Rector of Hampton Poyle and secretary of the 'Diocesan Board of Education,' and opened as a Training School for Governesses (see p. 168). This was removed to Fishponds Institution about the year 1849, and the site is now occupied by the two small villas north of Grove House, the brick wall of the playground alone remaining.

In past years Kidlington enjoyed an unenviable notoriety for prize-fighting, cock-fighting, badger-drawing, and bull-baiting. The most celebrated cock-fight was in 1755, and the historical three days of drunkenness and fighting took place upon the occasion of the election of 1768. Traditions are still current of weekly Sunday fights upon the village green, and of Mr. Symons, the powerful young clergyman, being called from the pulpit more than once to stop them. On later occasions it is recorded that Mr. Feild, then curate, took a chair into the 'ring' to exercise the silent influence of his clerical profession upon the language of its patrons; and that once, leaping hedge and ditch, he placed himself between the combatants, crying out they might kill a parson but not a prizefighter, as he had already one such lying dead in his district at Thrupp, awaiting burial, the victim of a recent encounter.

In the churchyard, near the south side door, lies an old Italian named Guiseppe Giacomorsi, who died in 1837, aged 83 years. He had been valet to Napoleon I at St. Helena. It is told of him that, seeking some place of retirement, he fixed upon Kidlington as offering a good chance of long life from the advanced age of many in the churchyard. His neighbours found him a cheerful, happy man, fond of children, and a constant attendant at the parish church. His godson, John Rouse, inherited some relics and portraits of Napoleon from him.

The once celebrated Mr. Bulteel, of Exeter College, after his suspension from the Curacy of St. Ebbe's, commenced outdoor preaching, and afterwards had a pulpit fitted in a cottage in the village. The rougher element attacked him, burnt his pulpit, drenched him with a home-made water squirt, and he was conducted out of the village by the teachers of Allen's school, armed with ebony rulers. The dissenters are still called 'Bulteelers' by the older inhabitants.

Upon the occasion of the birth of the Prince of Wales a steeple-chase was got up by some undergraduates of Oxford and run upon 'Pear Tree Hill,' near to 'Round Castle' upon the map. The winner was 'Little Lottery.' A full account of this was published in *Jackson's Journal*.

THE HISTORY OF KIDLINGTON.



CHAPTER I.

KIDLINGTON UNDER THE FEE OF D'OILEY.

I.—FAMILY OF D'OILEY.

A PERIOD of one hundred and fifty-nine years covers the sway of the great Norman family of d'Oiley over the Barony of Hook Norton, of which Kidlington, the subject of the present history, formed a member. Four generations succeeded each other during that time.

1074. The first Robert d'Oiley founded the church of St. George in his castle yard at Oxford, which served for some years as a parish church. He died in the first year of the twelfth century, and was buried with all honours in the Abbey Church of Abingdon.

His nephew, Robert the second, succeeded to the Barony, who in **1129** founded the Priory of Augustine Canons at Osney.

1149. Twenty years later the great Charter of Osney was given by him and confirmed by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, and the king, Henry I.

It contained the gift of

'my churches of Cudlyngton, of Weston, of Hooknorton, of Cleydon¹, of Shenestone (in Staffordshire), of Chesterton; of all my town of Ethon² with all belonging to it (except the Mills which I have given to another church), and Sparsway and all that part belonging to my mother, when she shall relinquish it, for the use of the Brethren; to have and to hold the same well and in peace, freely and honourably with all the customs and liberties appertaining to the same; that is to say in wood and plain;

¹ Cleydon came to him by his wife.

² This is Water Eaton: the Mills had been given to St. Frideswide's in the following terms:—'. . . the Mill at Hetone, with all belongings and two

springs and water which belongs to them.' See Dugdale, Mon., under Fridwd's, conf. by Pope Adrian: also Chartulary of Osney at C. C. pp. 11-16.

in medes and feedings ; in waters ways and paths as freely as I or my predecessors have or heretofore have enjoyed the same¹.'

This was followed by the gift of the church of St. George in the Castle ; of three hides of land in Cudelaw ; of the Chapel of Fres and much more in other parts of the country, and two-thirds of all manner of tithes. Robert d'Oiley the second died in 1157, and was buried in Eynsham Abbey. Henry d'Oiley, who married Maud, the daughter of the Earl of Hereford, succeeded to Robert. In his lifetime was made a confirmation of all the foregoing gifts to Osney, and a further 'hide of land in Cote, which is a member of Kidlington²,' was given to the Abbey by Ralph Britton, who had previously received the same from Henry d'Oiley.

The Convent of Osney having taken over the Church of St. George and its parochial charges, supplied it with all necessities for celebrating Divine service : among other allowances four pounds of wax was ordered to be paid yearly, upon the feast of Candlemas, by the Vicar of Kidlington³.

1153. In this year the Priory of Osney was erected into an Abbey⁴ and its Abbots held a place in Parliament among the Barons of the realm, and in the 49th Hen. III. the Abbot was summoned as seventh upon the roll.

1163. In this year died Henry d'Oiley the first, leaving a widow, two daughters and a son, Henry, at that time an infant. Of the elder daughter as Countess of Warwick we shall speak further on, the second died without issue, and the son with all his lands was committed to the wardship of his grandfather, the Earl of Hereford. The minority lasted for twenty years, during which time nothing is recorded of Kidlington, although it seems most probable that a mansion existed here about this time, for we read of an enclosed garden in Kidlington.

1182. Immediately upon his coming of age the young Henry confirmed to the Canons of Osney all the previous grants of his own and of his ancestors in these words:—

'And Etone and Sparswey and other lands near Oxford, for the good of the souls of my parents and for my health and that of all mine, in per-

¹ This Charter in Dugdale, vol. 6, p. 251 ; also Wood, ed. Clark, vol. 2, pp. 188 and 191.

² Wood, MSS. F. 13. That part of Kidlington where Park Farm lies, is known as Cot's Green. This gift may refer to Cote, near Wootten. This

deed includes 'the Chapel of Fres with the Manse and the land opposite towards the west, free from all jurisdiction of other courts, except for murder and theft.'

³ Wood, ed. Clark, vol. 2, p. 64.

⁴ Ibid. 210.

petual alms, free from all service; and the enclosure (Purpresture) of their garden in Kidlington¹.'

In consideration of this last gift the Canons relinquished all claims in the two parts of the tithes of Claydon.

1192. Ten years later Henry d'Oiley, 'in consideration of his body being buried before the high altar at Osney,' gave to the Abbot and Convent his chief mansion at Weston, and a wood and mill, and his meadows near the mill towards Kirtlington, and three crofts²; viz. Bencroft, Grascroft, and Heycroft, with offer of exchange in Hook Norton or in Kidlington.

1194. Early in this year King Richard I. returned to England from his imprisonment in Austria, and, desirous to take his pleasure and enjoy his new-found liberty, came in the course of the spring to Woodstock³, and while there issued writs summoning all the nobles of this part of the country to appear at a grand Joust or Tournament, to be held upon 'Bayard's Green,' eleven miles to the north of Kidlington. This was the first year in which such games were publicly authorised in England; but the King being newly come from the Continent, favoured such exhibitions, as tending to show the prowess of his knights, and proving conducive to their proficiency in arms.

The beginning of the 13th century brings us to the quarrel of King John with the Pope upon the election of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Some years previously Arnold de Gray, a cousin of the King's, was in possession of land in Water Eaton; he was father of two sons, one of whom was ancestor to the Greys of Rotherfield, and father to Walter, the celebrated Archbishop of York; the second was John, Bishop of Norwich. He owned a certain portion of land belonging to Kidlington, which he made over to the Convent of Osney. A deed preserved in the Bodleian library is still to be read, by which Walter, Archbishop of York, and others, executors of the will of John de Gray, assign to the Church and Canons of Osney a certain

¹ Dugdale, *Monast.* vol. 6, p. 242, part 1, 1817, the word used is 'Purpresture,' = encroachment.

² White Kennet, vol. 1, p. 209.

³ Marshall's *History of Woodstock*, p. 66. The four tournaments were to be held, 'Inter Sarum et Wilton;

inter Warwick and Kennelingworth; inter Standford and Waningford; inter Brackle and Mixeberie.' Owing to grave abuses tournaments were forbidden in the reign of Henry III., upon pain of forfeiture of land and of Christian burial. White Kennet, vol. 1, p. 212.

wood, which is called Coggeswood¹, pertaining to the village of Kidlington and the church of Swerford and chapel of Senewell, left to them by the said John de Gray in his last will. The confirmation of this bequest by the Suzerain is as follows :—

‘Henry d’Oiley, the Constable of the King, grants to Oseney all that wood in Kidlington called Coggeswood, which they hold of the gift of John de Gray, Bishop of Norwich, which the said Henry gave to the said John².’

It was this cousin John de Gray that the King fixed upon to fill the vacant see of Canterbury. For some reason not mentioned, the Pope objected to this choice, and directed the monks of Canterbury to elect Stephen Langton. At this news the King’s anger knew no bounds, he caused his cousin to be proclaimed Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral, and banished all the monks. The Pope replied by placing the Kingdom under an ‘Interdict’ until the King should submit.

1208. The people must now have rejoiced in the privilege of their Canons, which permitted them to attend Divine Service, although in a private manner and divested of all pomp, in their church of Kidlington, while the King in his palaces of Woodstock and Beaumont was refused all religious rites. The ‘Interdict’ lasted for five years, until at last King John submitted to the Pope’s choice of an Archbishop, and he placed his cousin, John de Gray, Bishop of Norwich, in Ireland, where he died, holding the post of Lord Deputy.

1214. The Interdict being taken off the land, Henry d’Oiley hastened to celebrate the marriage of his only child Maud, the daughter of his first wife, with a Flemish Knight named Maurice de Gaunt. He endowed her with the manor of Weston-on-the-Green, which he had purchased, with the reservation of so much as he had already given to the church. Maud died very young and childless, whereupon her father demanded the return of her dowry. Maurice de Gaunt refused this demand, and brought the case before the law-courts in Oxford, where it was decided in his favour in 1220³. Ten years later he made over the manor to the King in a deed signed at Portsmouth. Probably he took the ‘Cross,’ or went on one of the expeditions to France then so frequent. As second wife Henry d’Oiley took

¹ Oxford Charters, 387*. Coggeswood is between Ensham and Witney. It was included in the Bailiwick of Kidlington under the Abbey.

² Wood, MSS. F. 13, and Playfair’s Family Antiquity, 1809, vol. 1, under

Gray; also Chartulary of Osney, C. C p. 44. Hawisia, sister of John de Gray, was also a benefactress to Osney; see Wood, ed. Clark, vol. 2, p. 199.

³ White Kennet, vol. 1, pp. 267 and 293.

Matilda, the daughter and coheiress of the Earl of Ewe in Normandy¹, and who in her widowhood married William de Cantelupe, of whom a few words must be said; as his wife brought him the town of Kidlington in dower. William de Cantelupe² was the head of a powerful Norman family, and father to Thomas, Chancellor of England, and grandfather to Thomas, the sainted Bishop of Hereford. At this time he was Steward of the King's household, and in the quarrel which arose between King John and the Pope he adhered to his master's cause. When the King by his tyranny drove the Barons to rebellion, Henry d'Oiley and Cantelupe took their side, and were instrumental in calling Louis of France into England.

1215. Henry d'Oiley was one of the Barons who forced John to sign Magna Charta at Runnymede, and in consequence, all his lands were confiscated for two years, and during that time they were enjoyed by a favourite of the King's. D'Oiley and Cantelupe both returned to the King's party, the former to receive back his own estate, while the second did not scruple to accept the forfeited estates of some of his less fortunate comrades. During these troubles Kidlington must have been the scene of frequent raids and military demonstrations. The Barons with their followers were assembled at Brackley³, and the King held his Court at Beaumont Palace, near Oxford, and all the negotiations would be carried on by envoys and heralds, passing and re-passing over Kidlington Green. The old manor house must have often rung with the clamour of men-at-arms, and many a rough word passed and hard blow parried around its precincts.

We now leave warlike scenes and turn to see the endeavours made by the Church to restore order, and remedy the abuses which had crept in during the late troubles.

1222. This year is famous for the Council held at Osney⁴ by the Archbishop, in which St. George was chosen Patron of England. The state of the various parishes was considered, and a fixed stipend determined for the resident clergyman. Until now the outlying parishes seem to have been served by clergymen residing within the Abbies, and making their rounds or stations at various times. Now a more stable arrangement was come to, and a fixed yearly sum out of

¹ Annals of Osney, Gough Nicholls, MS. No. 22; d'Oiley Pedigree.

² William de Cantelupe was Governor of the Castles of Wilton and Hereford, and Sheriff of the counties of

Warwick, Hereford, and Leicester. Burke's Extinct Peerage, p. 107.

³ White Kennet, vol. 1, p. 253.

⁴ Annales Monastici, Rolls Series, Osney.

the tithes was set apart for a resident Vicar, and from this arose, what became later on, Perpetual Vicarages. 1225. The first notice we find of a chaplain appointed to Kidlington is in this year, when one Thomas¹ was presented by the Abbey to the church. 1227. Two years later the greater tithes were appropriated by the Monastery².

The life of Henry d'Oiley was now drawing to a close; age was growing upon him, and prompted probably by his own infirmities, he made his last gift in favour of the sick in the Abbey infirmary.

1229. The tithes of his demesne and of his men tenants in the manors of Kidlington, Weston, and Claydon³, he gave in their favour to procure such things as were necessary for their comfort. Many years previously he had exchanged the garden in Kidlington⁴ with the Abbey for the tithes of Claydon; by this fresh endowment Osney gained both. The church of Kidlington must have been re-built during the life of Henry d'Oiley, and after the peace of the Kingdom had been restored. The beautiful north door known as the 'Batchelor's door,' and the arches of the nave are referred by Mr. J. Parker to the year 1220⁵.

1232. Henry d'Oiley's death happened in this year, and according to the agreement, entered into forty years before, with the Convent of Osney, he was buried with all possible solemnity in their church⁶. With him ended the line of the great feudal Barons d'Oiley of Hook Norton; his sister Margery, Countess of Warwick, was found to be his heiress. Matilda, his widow, as wife of William de Cantelupe, long survived him. She brought to her second husband 'the whole Town of Kidlington which is of the Fee of D'Oiley⁷.' As a benefactor to the Abbey, Cantelupe received due honours at their hands at his death in 1250, and ten years later the Lady Matilda de Cantelupe was laid to rest beside him in the Abbey church, leaving behind her a memory of good deeds⁸.

¹ Presentation of Chaplain, Annals, *ut supra*.

² Tithes appropriate, Annals, *ut supra*.

³ Annals, *ut supra*.

⁴ See p. 3.

⁵ Parker's Deanery of Woodstock.

⁶ Annales Monastici, u.s. his father also was buried in the same church.

⁷ 'Will de Cantelupe tenet totam

villam de Cudlyngton, que est de dote Matildis uxoris ejus de feod d'Oylley.' Dugdale, MSS., No. 6492, A. 2, p. 313.

⁸ '1250. This year died Lord William de Cantelupe et jacent viscera ejus apud Osneam coram altari St. Michaelis.' '1260, 1st March, died in good memory Lady Matilda de Cantelupe,' Annales Monastici, u.s.

NAMES OF THOSE OWING MILITARY SERVICE, AND FROM WHOM THEY HOLD (IN OXON), ABOUT THE END OF HENRY III. AND BEGINNING OF EDWARD I.

'Fee of d'Oilley.

William de Cauch holds in Kudlington of this Fee and service from William Langhals who holds three virgates from the same¹.'

This land must have been somewhere about Campsfield.

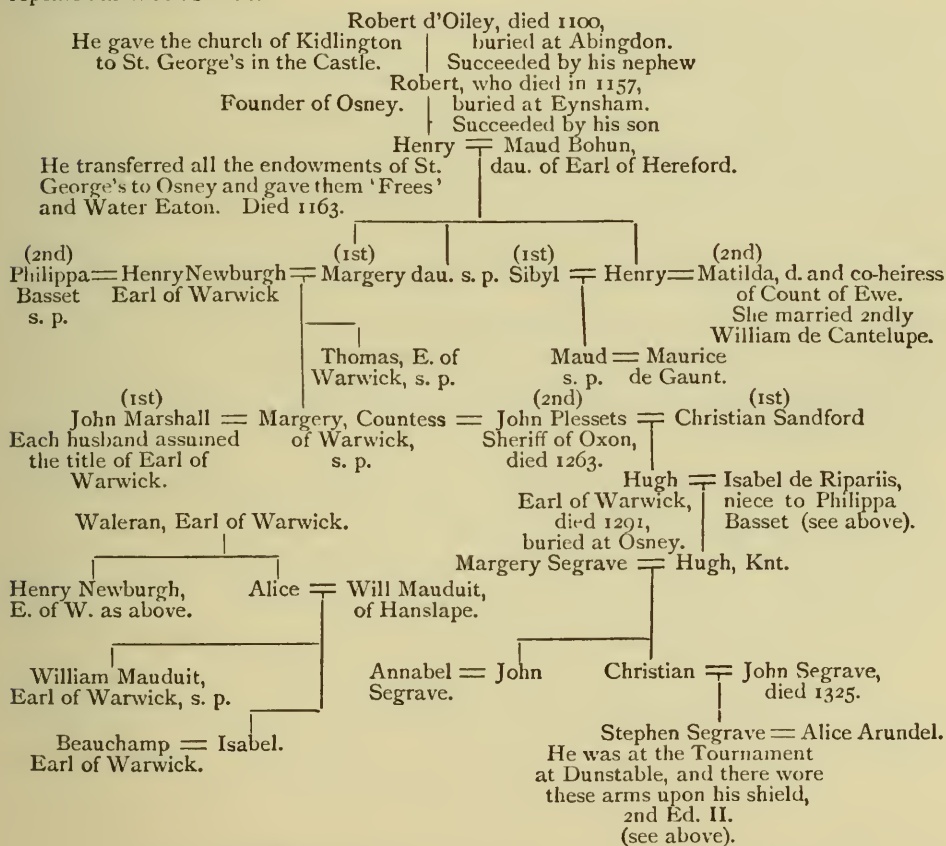
'Hundred of Wotton, Hensington. William Langhals holds of the same Fee three virgates of land from William Cantilupe belonging to Cudelinton².'

PEDIGREE OF THE FAMILY OF D'OILEY.

ARMS.

1. *D'Oiley*.—Or, two bends azure.
 2. *Basset*.—Argent, two bars undé sable.
 3. *Plessets*.—Argent, six annulets gules.
 4. *Cantelupe*.—Gules, three fleur-de-lys or.
 5. *Mauduit*.—Or, two bars gules.
 6. *Beauchamp*.—Gules, a fesse between six cross-crosslets or.
 7. *Sandford*.—Azure, three lioncels rampant or.
 8. *Segrave*.—Sable, a lion rampant argent, crowned or, a fleur-de-lys upon his shoulder.
- This coat also appeared in one window without the differential fleur-de-lys. Probably for two members of the family.

These coats of arms were all in the church at Kidlington, and are to be found several times repeated in Wood's MSS.



¹ Testa de Nevil, p. 101, b

² u. s. p. 103.

II.—FAMILY OF BASSET.

Some account of this family will be useful here, showing their connection with Plessets and Malets in Kidlington, and the influence they held over the neighbouring villages.

1156. In the second year of Henry II., upon the death of Brien Fitz Count, and of Maud his wife, only child of Robert d'Oiley I., the 'Honour' of Wallingford, of which Thrup was a member, fell again into the hands of the King, and remained in his keeping for some years.

1158. Gilbert Basset in this year received the manor of Bicester, which belonged to that 'Honour,' of the King. (**1167.**) His son Thomas was Sheriff of Oxon, and was found upon enquiry to hold seven Knight's fees; his cousins, Nicholas ten, Thurstan six and two parts of a seventh, Osmund one and a quarter, and Fulk one Knight's fee, all of the same 'Honour.'

1174 & 1179. Thomas Basset, Lord of Bicester, Wretcwick and Stratton, was constituted one of the King's Justices Itinerant for Berks and Oxon, and for his special services in divers wars Henry II. gave him the Lordship of Hedenton, with the Hundred of Bullingdon and the Hundred without the North Gate of Oxford, in fee farm, for the rent of £20 per annum to the King's Exchequer. From this grant this branch of the family was known as Basset of Headington, and the third part of the Hundred of the North Gate was called 'Basset's Fee¹.'

1182. This Thomas left three sons, Gilbert, Thomas, and Alan, and one daughter. Gilbert had his mansion at Bicester, and in this year founded there the Priory of Augustine Canons known as St. Eadburgha's. His only child Eustace, was first married to Thomas de Verdon, Lord of Hethe, and secondly to Richard Camville of Middleton Stoney. The manor of Kirtlington was given to Gilbert of Wycomb, son of Alan Basset. Gilbert of Bicester was Sheriff of Oxon, and died in 1202. His brother Thomas succeeded to his

¹ This is drawn substantially from White Kennet. He adds, 'now in the possession of Brazennose College.' Vol. 1, pp. 171, 179, 183.

manor of Headington and to his Shrievalty; and his daughter Eustace to all his other manors.

1205. Now died Waleran de Newburgh, fourth Earl of Warwick, leaving his son Henry a minor, committed with all his lands and his castle of Warwick to the charge of Thomas Basset of Headington.

1218. In this year the King relinquished the Barony of Wallingford in favour of his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall, and a consequent readjustment of the grants of all subsidiary manors took place. Thomas Basset at this time was Sheriff of Oxon and Berks, and was assessed at the sum of £42 10s. in Headington, and £20 for the fee farm in the said Honour.

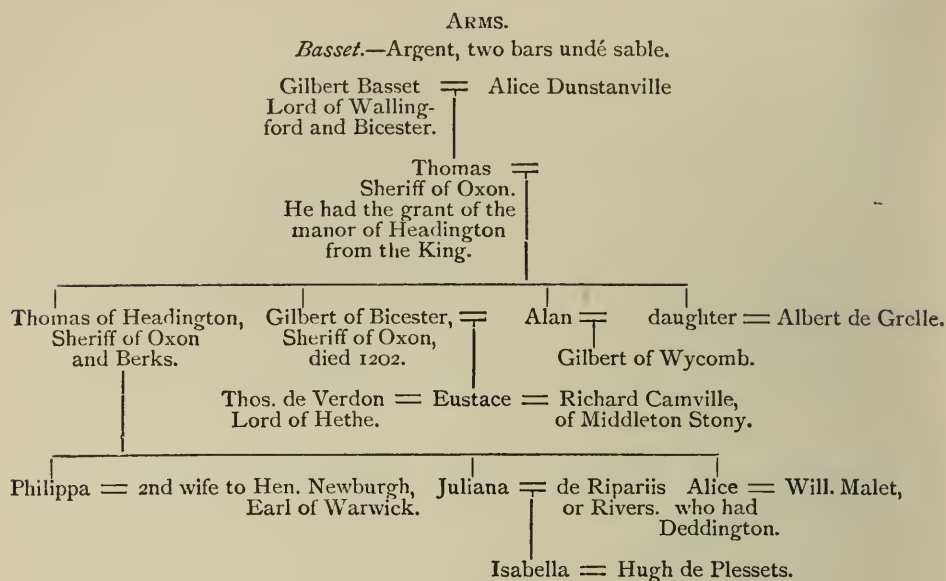
In the course of a few years the Earl of Warwick married Margery, sister and eventually heiress of Henry d'Oiley, and in second marriage he took Philippa the daughter of his guardian, Thomas Basset. To his child of his first marriage descended his title and the Honour of Hook Norton. Philippa, Countess of Warwick, his widow, died without issue, and was buried in the Priory of Bicester. Her niece by her sister Juliana de Ripariis (Rivers), married Hugh Plessets, and inherited Headington and all her honours. A third sister Alice was married to William Malet, and had Deddington for her dower. Of her family we find evidence that they held land in Kidlington, and the following notice will show in what position they stood in regard to the family of Croxford, which frequently appears in our records.

1294. 'Robert Malet, son and heir of Robert Malet, who says he is of full age, complains that he is dispossessed of 4 acres in Cudlington, of which his father died seised, through Idonea, who was the wife of Walter de Croxed, who recovered the land against Robert after he came of age, &c., and because it is clear that his father died seised of this land, therefore the King seised it again into his own hand¹.'

By looking at the annexed pedigree, it will be seen that Alice Basset married William Malet. The interest in Kidlington held by the above-named Robert Malet, probably was derived from her. The name does not again appear in connection with this place.

¹ Placitorum Abbreviatio (Mich. Term, 23 Edward I. = 1294), vol. 2, p. 292.

PEDIGREE OF THE BASSET FAMILY,
SHOWING THE DESCENT FROM THEM OF THE PLESSETS AND MALETS.



III.—THE FAMILY OF PLESSETS.

The first section closed with the death of Henry d'Oiley, the second of the name, leaving Kidlington as the dowry of his widow, who survived until 1260. The Honours of the Barony of Hook Norton devolved upon Margery d'Oiley, wife to Henry Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, and descended to their daughter Margery, Countess of Warwick, in her own right, and wife to John Mareschal, who assumed the Earldom through her, her brother Thomas, Earl of Warwick, dying s. p¹. He paid as succession duty to his uncle £100 and two Palfreys.

The Barony being now in female hands, was considered by the feudal law as in wardship to the King, and was at his disposal whenever he desired to enrich a favourite. The occasion for such an exercise of regal power soon arose in this case, when John Mareschal died, and left his wealthy widow in the King's hands.

1227. Upon the 6th November in the 12th year of Henry III., a servant in the King's household, of Norman birth, John de Plessets by name, was delivered out of Newgate Prison². The cause of his imprisonment and his lowly birth were soon forgotten, and, safe in

¹ Burke's Ext. Peerage, p. 395.

² Close Rolls Calendar. 23rd to

27th Report Dep. Keeper of Records, p. 81.

his lord's good graces, riches and power were soon his. He served the King in the Welsh wars, where he met William de Cantelupe and the other Barons of these parts, awaiting the King at Montgomery¹. He passed from one post of honour to another, and held the Castle of Devizes, the Forest of Chippenham, and the office of Sheriff of Oxon². He married Christian, the daughter and heiress of Hugh de Sandford, a Knight of Buckinghamshire.

1240. The Abbot of the Convent of Missenden in the same county, in a deed signed, amongst others, by William de Cantelupe, gave him a lease of all his lands in Muswell, which is in the manor of Piddington, for the yearly payment of two marks and for twenty marks in hand³. Missenden and Piddington will occur again in our history. About this time Christian Sandford died, and her son Hugh Plessets succeeded, in the lifetime of his father, to part of her estates in Morton and Wittenham, Berks⁴. In this year also died John Mareschal, styled by courtesy Earl of Warwick, in right of his wife Margery Newburgh, and the King lost no time in showing new favours to his friend. Being at the time at Bordeaux, he there issued 'letters patent' upon Christmas Day, granting the hand of the rich widow to John de Plessets, and making provision that in the case of her refusal he should receive the fines payable to the King⁵. The Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Carlisle, and William de Cantelupe, received the royal mandate to repair to the Countess and lay before her the Sovereign's wish. The embassy was successful, Margery accepted the hand of de Plessets, and in the 31st year of King Henry III., he assumed the title of Earl of Warwick. Six years later we read how the King granted Hook Norton and Cudlington to John de Plessets,

'which were the inheritance of Henry d'Oiley, as an escheat of the Normans, to have and to hold till such time as all the land of England and of Normandy should be made common⁶.'

Plessets founded a branch of his family in Dorsetshire, by obtaining the wardship of Ela de Malesmaines of Combe Bisset, and marrying her to a relation of his own⁷.

¹ Exchequer Records.

² 12 Heny III., 3rd Sept. 'Command is given to Walter de Bello Campo, Henry de Staff, Walter de Dunchville, Thomas Maudit, William de Cantelupe, John de Balun, Hugh de Gurney, Walter de Baskerville, Nicholas de Verdun, to come to the King at Montgomery with horses and arms, prepared

to go in the King's service.' Calendar of Close Rolls. 23rd to 27th Rep. of Dep. Keeper, p. 74.

³ White Kennet, vol. 1, p. 318.

⁴ Dugdale's Baronage, vol. 1, p. 773.

⁵ Burke's Extinct Peerage, p. 434.

⁶ Camden's Britannia. See Appendix.

⁷ Hutchins' Dorset, vol. 3, p. 579.

1263. Shortly before his death he was made one of the Justices Itinerant to sit at the Tower, and Sheriff for the counties of Warwick and Leicester¹. The Abbey of Missenden received his body, and all his territorial honours descended to his son Hugh, by Christian Sandford². The Earldom of Warwick upon the decease of the Countess reverted to her cousin William Mauduit, of Hanslope, who assumed the title of Earl of Warwick.

HUGH PLESSETS I.

The Barony and the estates which John de Plessets obtained with his wife the Countess of Warwick, descended to his son Hugh.

1264. In April of the forty-eighth year of Henry III., Hugh did homage to the King for the Baronies of Hook Norton, Kidlington, and Bradham, and paid the fine of £100 for his relief².

1279. During the early part of his life, and probably before his marriage, while these affairs were being transacted, he resided at Kidlington, and at his manor house there he signed a deed, upon the first Sunday after the Epiphany, by which he granted all his lands in Muswell to John Fitz Nigel of Borstall, for the yearly rent of two marks. This payment was commuted later on for the nominal rent of one clove, to be paid at Missenden upon Christmas Day³.

The Bishop allowed Hugh de Plessets the right of a private chapel in his manor house, but upon the express stipulation between him and the Abbot of Osney, that his Chaplain should not pretend to any parochial rights or dues, and that all things should be adjusted without prejudice to the mother church⁴. The will of a great feudal Lord of these times was well nigh absolute in his domain, acknowledging no superior except the King. The right over life and limb of all their tenants was very usual, and we find the name of Hugh de Plessets returned in the 'Hundred Rolls' for the county,

'as having Gallows upon his land and view of Frankpledge over his own men, without the Sheriff or other Bailiffs of the Crown, but by what authority we know not, and he holds in domain 2 carucates of land for supplying to the Lord the King the service of one Knight in time of war for 40 days at his own cost⁵.'

¹ Burke, u.s., p. 395.

² White Kennet, vol. 1, p. 367.

³ Amongst those who signed this deed were Dominus Robert Malet, Dominus John Carbonel, Dominus Petro de Calivis, Dominus William le

Poure, Galfridus de Burton, John Fitz Nigel senior, Walter de Horton, Nicholas le Brun. White Kennet, vol. 1, pp. 412-415.

⁴ W. Kennet, vol. 2, p. 281.

⁵ The gallows probably stood at the

A list of the tenants or villains follows, closing with the words:—

‘All these tenants hold their possessions, carry on their business and redeem their children at their Lord’s will¹.’

List of Tenants under Hugh de Plessets (‘Hundred Rolls’).

VILLENAGE.

Matilda le Quen holds half a virgate of land of Hugh de Plessets, pays for the same per annum 2s. 6d. (All the following tenants pay at the same uniform rate), Alice le Retour, Andrew Stub, William Stub, Henry Budd, Simon le Slear, Fulc’ Ernald, John Juvenis, Elias le Wyse, John le Rug, William Aylon, John Pye, Henry de la Lake, William Andrew, John Cocus, John le Wyse, Henry de Herdwyk, Galfridus Gorge, Wymarc de Annelowe, John de Annelowe, William Hilling, Alice (relict of Hilling), Agnes (relict of Pye), Agnes (relict of Gerard), John Randulf, Agnes Clappe, Henry le Gek, Radulph le Yreys, Radulph le Coupe, Wymond, Nich. Piscator, John at Forde, Adam Carcutari, John le Moyne, Roger Lovel, Matilda (relict of Gardiner), William Ketel, Richard Bodde, Henry Ketel, John Walter, Oliva ate More.

Hugh de Plessets contracted a marriage with Isabel de Ripariis (Rivers), the niece and heiress of Philippa Basset, Countess of Warwick, and, as her dowry, obtained the manor of Headington, the Hundred of Bullingdon, and the old Hundred without the North Gate of Oxford. Of this matter notice will be taken further on.

1280. From what we can learn, Plessets lived at Headington sometime after his marriage, and rendered himself unpopular with his people, and he was impleaded by them at Westminster for infringing their rights and abridging their ancient customs. These rights were confirmed to the men of Headington in three several years by Acts of Parliament². It is probably owing to this circumstance that Plessets exchanged with the King the manor of Headington for that of Compton Henmersh and £200 down, and towards the accomplishment of this agreement he pledged his manors of Hook Norton,

extreme edge of the manor adjoining Wolvercote; a piece of ground in Frice farm (over which runs the branch line of the L. and N. W. Railway to Yarnton) is called upon a farm map, ‘Hangman’s ground.’

¹ A list of tenants in Kidlington, from the ‘Hundred Rolls,’ vol. 2, p. 873. See Appendix.

² Confirmed to the people 29 and 31 Ed. III and 16 Rich. II.

Cudelynton, and Missenden¹. These matters settled, Plessets led his retainers into Scotland in the King's service. Of what befel him there we are ignorant, but he returned home and died in the fifty-fourth year of his age (1291), and was buried at Osney, where many years later old Leland saw, in the Ladye chapel, the 'fair tumbe of a nobleman of the Placet's family, with an Image².'

Before going on with the history of the Plessets, we must here mention a matter of domestic interest in Kidlington, and one which refers in all probability to a site which may even now be identified, and which has still kept a lingering tradition of its original use. In 1267 Peter de Mêles granted to William Sutton, Abbot of Osney, a certain mede or mere, free from all claims, with his garden and all belonging to it, in the town of Cudlington. This mede adjoined the mills belonging to the Abbey in the south part of the town, near the water. Upon this property was a charge of 8*d.* in the year, to be paid to the church for the maintenance of a burning lamp before the Crucifix in the church, for the repose of the soul of Henry d'Oiley, and of all Christian souls³. This gift was confirmed by Sir Hugh Plessets, and later on it will be seen that the lamp was still burning when the chantries were suppressed in Edward VI's reign.

1268. The King, Henry III., upon the 12th July, gave a charter of 'Freewarren' to Osney in all their lands and lordships, including Hampton, Eton, and Weston. At that time the Abbot held 8 acres in Hampton ad Pontem of the gift of one Daniel de Cudlyington, in 'free and perpetual alms⁴.' The privilege of 'Freewarren' was the ancient form of the right of preserving game upon estates, and was as follows: The person who obtained this grant was free to preserve all game, hare, coney, partridge, pheasant, and any person infringing this right and poaching was liable to a fine of £10⁵.

1291. Towards the close of the lifetime of Hugh de Plessets, the King, Edward I., prepared to go on a Crusade. The project of rescuing the Holy Sepulchre from the hands of the Infidels found favour with all Christian peoples, and was especially encouraged by the Popes, who used every means in their power to advance the holy

¹ Dugdale's Baronage, u.s.

² Leland's Itinerary, vol. 2.

³ Chartulary of Osney, p. 43.

⁴ Annals, *ut supra*. This was con-

firmed by Will. Fitz Obert, Lord of that Fee.

⁵ White Kennet, vol. 1, p. 350.

wars. The Church property was taxed for this purpose, and upon this occasion Pope Nicholas IV. granted to Edward I., Tenthhs of all such property in England and Wales. A new valuation was made in order to increase the amount as far as possible, and a Commission appointed to take the Depositions upon oath of all who held the same. Under this valuation the Abbey lands in this parish were found to be worth :—

Water Eaton	. .	Lands, rents and fisheries	. . .	9	16	8
		Fruits, flocks and cattle	. . .	1	8	0
Kidlington	. .	Lands, rents, meadows and mills	. . .	2	12	4
		The church	26	13	4
		(Portion of Abbot in church	. . .	13	4)	¹

The King being gone abroad, a party of Knights went out to join him under royal license and special letters of Protection; they took with them Master Godfrey de Kidlington, who doubtless acted as Clerk or Chaplain to the party².

HUGH PLESSETS II.

1292. Hugh Plessets succeeded his father, being at the time twenty-five years of age. He did homage for the Barony of Hook Norton, within which was the manor of Chesterton, held by Sir Bardolph de Chesterton for half a Knight's fee³.

1297. About this time he gave to the Abbey of Osney, the tax upon hay and houses, and leave to feed swine in all his woods and parks⁴.

1299. In the twenty-fifth of Edward I., de Plessets received summons to Parliament as a Baron of the Realm⁵.

1301. He followed the King to the Scotch wars, and was not more fortunate there than his royal master, for he died in Scotland, leaving his child of tender age. Shortly before his death he executed a deed which is still preserved with his seal attached⁶, leaving to the King in trust for his son Thomas during his minority, certain lands in

¹ Pope Nicholas' Taxation. The latter entry is from Annals of Osney.

² These Knights were John Fitz John, John de Neville, John le Breton, Thomas de Stapleton, with others, and Master Godfrey de Kidlington. Patent Rolls, Ed. I, Calendar of Dep. Keeper of Records, 42nd Report, p. 557.

³ White Kennet, vol. I, p. 450.

⁴ Ibid. 470.

⁵ Burke's Extinct Peerage, p. 434.

⁶ This deed was preserved in the Chapter House, Westminster, with his seal attached, argent, 6 annulets gules (Oxford Bag, No. 28), Annals, u.s.

Kidlington, Hook Norton, and Missenden¹. This trust with the King would seem to show that de Plessets died in his companionship, and did not fall in battle.

Margaret, his widow, was left with a dowry in Oxfordshire, and in the Post Mortem Inquisition following, her name is returned :—

‘Margaret, the wife of Hugh Plescy, Hognorton manor, of lands usurped there; Hedinton manor; Bolindon Hundred; Hundred of North Gate and the manor of Compton Henmersh².’

Some dispute seems to have arisen about the manor of Headington, which we remember to have been exchanged with the King for the manor of Compton, by Hugh Plessets I. The Sheriff of the County, Nicholas de la Persch, called an Inquisition at Oxford to enquire into the matter, and to show how the Manor had been alienated from the Crown. The Jury returned upon Oath that King Henry had given the said manor, &c., to Thomas Basset and his heirs for ever³. We do not find how Margaret de Plessets was able to claim both manors of Headington and Compton. Two years were occupied in a trial about lands in Hook Norton (perhaps the usurped lands above mentioned), when John de Segrave petitioned in favour of Margaret Plessets in the matter of dowry⁴. We hear no more of Margaret nor of her son Thomas, and as their names do not appear in any subsequent returns, we may infer that Thomas died in infancy.

1327. Another Hugh Plessets follows, and in the second year of Edward III. held the manors of Cudlyngton and Hook Norton. Of his wife we only know that her name was Milicent⁵.

We have now arrived at a period when the personal influence of the great feudal Lords seems to have been relaxed, and the power of the Abbey of Osney becomes more prominent. The fortunes of the

¹ Inq. Post Mort. taken 29 Ed. I., ‘Hugo de Plessetis, Cudelington maner’ extent’ ampla Hognorton man’ extent.’ This deed was executed in 1305, and was signed by Dom. John de Vesey, Ottone de Grandissono, Robert de Tipetot, Stephen de Pencastre, &c. White Kennet appears to confuse Hugh Plessets the first with the se-

cond of the name, v. vol. I, p. 502.

² Inq. Post Mortem.

³ *Calendarium genealogicum*, vol. 2, p. 697, 33 Ed. I.

⁴ White Kennet, vol. I, pp. 499 and 502. This little pedigree will show the family relationship between Segrave and Plessets, and how the Segrave arms came into the Kidlington windows :—

John de Segrave = Christian Plessets,
dau. of Sir Hugh de Plessets.

His sister, Her brother.
Annabel Segrave = John de Plessets.

Burke’s *Extinct Peerage*, p. 477.

⁵ Sir. R. Colt Hoare’s *Modern Wiltshire*.

Plessets must be followed in Wiltshire, where it will be remembered a branch of the family had been established at Combe Bisset. The manor of Kidlington seems to have been henceforward let to younger members or dependants of the family.

The Church of Kidlington was in great part rebuilt during the early part of this century, still leaving the framework of the nave and the north door which date from the time of Henry d'Oiley. The beauty of the work may in all likelihood be attributed to Thomas de Cudlyngton, who was elected Abbot of Osney on the 5th August, 1330, and who doubtless fostered a love for his native village. Thomas de Cudlington brought prosperity to his house, his election was celebrated by the restitution by Charter¹ from the King of the temporalities of the Monastery, lost we know not how. He was the builder of the Lady Chapel at Osney, and to him is owing the beautiful south or Lady Chapel at Kidlington, the south porch and the font. He was a man of singular energy of character, and during his long reign of forty-four years as Abbot, he evinced the greatest activity in building and in regulating the affairs of his Convent.

1336. The church was probably opened upon completion in the summer of this year, as we find that Bishop Burgwash was in Kidlington in June, and from this place dated a letter in reference to a chapel in Oxford². (31st May or 2nd of calends of June.)

1335. It was the custom for the mitred Abbots of the Middle Ages to sit in Parliament as Barons, this Thomas de Cudlyngton refused to do, whereupon the King summoned a council to ascertain the grounds of his refusal. The enquiry seems to have lingered on for some years, and we find the matter again canvassed in 1349-50.

1350. At length a final decision was arrived at, viz. that the Abbot held the manors of Water Eaton, Thrupp, Gosford, Weston, and Hampton by the service of two Knights' fees of Hugh de Plescy, and through him of the King, therefore the Abbots of Osney were not Peeral Abbots, and held no fee in Barony of the King³. In consequence of this decision Thomas de Cudlyngton was excused attendance at Parliament. Something, however, must have been lost in

¹ Oxford Charters 53, dated at Stamford, 9th Aug., 4 Edw. III; three days after the Election.

² Wood, ed. Clark, vol. 2, p. 515. This chapel was that of St. Bartholomew at Cowley.

³ Annals of Osney. Gough Nicholls,

No. 22, Bod. Lib. This is alluded to in Wood, vol. 2, p. 210. To show the importance of this Abbey, Wood mentions that the Duke of Suffolk was their perpetual chief steward and received an annual pension from them. ed. Clark.

independence during this transaction, when it is remembered that Henry d'Oiley in 1182 gave his lands in Water Eaton to the monastery 'free of all service.'

THE NINTHS.

1340. The tax of the 'Ninths' was levied in all the land while these affairs were going on. This was a tax upon Temporalities granted to the King, Edward III., in aid of the subsidy required by him for his expedition into France. In the year 1340 the King assumed the title of King of France, and this assumption flattering the vanity of the nation, Parliament, in order to show their approval and satisfaction, passed the following grant—14 Ed. III., stat. 1, c. 20:—

'The Prelates, Earls, Barons and all the Commons of the Realm grant to him the 9th lamb, 9th fleece and the 9th Sheaf, to be taken by two years then to come. And of the Cities and Boroughs the very 9th part of all their goods and chattels to be taken and levied by lawful and reasonable tax by the same two years. And for foreign merchants and all who dwell not in Cities nor Boroughs or live not of their goods and chattels the 15th part.'

This latter claim was made in order to include all tinkers, gipsies, and all manner of vagabonds¹. It is curious to remark that when Pope Nicholas granted the tax upon Church property, a new valuation was ordered in order to raise the amount as high as possible; now that all the laity had to pay, the opposite feeling seems to have prevailed, and a declaration is made upon oath that tithes, heriots and oblations were fallen in value. We read for Kidlington as follows:—

Inquisitiones nonarum, page 137. Cudelynton.

'The parish church of the same with all its portions is rated at £26 13s. 4d. of which (the ninths) were assessed at £21 6s. 8d., as is clear from the inquiry held under the oath of John Philip, John Campion, Richard de la Chaumbre, John ate Mulle, John Frankeleyne, Adam Fitz Robert ate Mulle, who say that the ninth of the said parish is not worth more than is afore written because the heriots, the oblations with other tenths are worth £10; nor are there as they say any catallars² or merchants.'

¹ In Curia Scaccarii. Inq. non. com. Oxon, and from Dr. Symond's MS. in possession of J. Davenport, Esq., County Office.

² 'Catallar' may mean owner of

chattels. In the Inq. nonarum the rateable value of the parish is often more than the assessed value of the ninths because they were only levied on sheaf, lamb, and fleece.

GRANTS OF DIVERS PORTIONS OF LAND IN KIDLINGTON TO OSNEY ABBEY :—

'William Fitz Thomas of Cudlington grants to the church of St. Mary of Osney 2 acres of land I had of the gift of William Wootton and one acre of land I had of the gift of William of Cudlington and $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre of land of William Fitzpeter of Emmington and one acre in the town field of Shipton that I had of William Toby ¹.'

'I, Walter Fitz John of Thrup grant to the church above named, 2 acres of land in Stodfield,'
also land in Canaham for a lamp.

'I, John, Fitz John Philips of Cotes grant to the above church vj acres of land in Cudlington and Stodfield,'
and on the 'fossa camiacete' and on the 'Schelde.'

Confirmation of the above by John Philips the father.

THE 'BAILYSHIP' OF CUDLINGTON BELONGING TO OSNEY, comprised the town of Cudlington, Gosford, Coggeswood, Thrup, Shipton, Hensington, and Withull ².

The following is the Bailiff's account for one year during the reign of Richard II., for :—

'Rents in Cudlington. This is the rental to the Abbot and monastery of Osneye Abeye at Cudlington at the feste of Michaelmasse.

Of Harri of Harnhulle for tithe of fisheries xiiij^d.

Of John of Croxford of John Hancockes vj^d.

Of William the Tailor of Thomas of W

Of Nicole the levelif

At Cudlington at the feste of Sainte Mariedai.

Of John of Croxford ij^s vj^d. Of roger randulf xij^d.

Of John Hanecockes ij^s vj^d. Of harri of harnhulle for tithe of fisheries, xiiij^d.

Of Nicole the levelif xviiij^d.

Cudlington at the feste of St. John at midsomer.

Of Nicole the levelif xviiij^d.³

Agnes, daughter of Henry de Cama gives seven acres of land upon 'Shaldestrete,' also other portions at 'Hoges' towards 'Greytonesmore,' and at 'Rambescote' and at 'Fernhulle' and 'Horndon' and 'Northfurze,' and one rood upon 'Hangyngelonde' and 'Berefurlong' and 'Campsfield' and 'Redeslonde ⁴.'

'Shaldestrete' appears to be the same as that called 'Salt street' in the Terrier of 1634. Canaham still keeps its name, near the Mill.

¹ Turner's Coll. Oxon, vol. 4, p. 276,
c. 45.

³ Oxford Charters, Osney Rolls

14.

² Chartulary of Oseney, p. 41.

⁴ Osney Chartulary in C. C., p. 44.

IV.—OTHER FAMILIES DEPENDENT UPON OR CONNECTED WITH THE PLESSET FAMILY.

1345. AT this date begins a series of various families which extends over a period of ninety years, and ending when Thomas Chaucer became Lord of the Manor of Kidlington.

It would appear that Hugh de Plessets gave up his residence in Oxfordshire and returned to the early estate of his ancestor at Combe Byset in Wiltshire, although still retaining his lordship in this county.

Hugh de Plessets III., left a successor of the same name, but he does not appear to have held any personal relations with the parish. The widow Milicent (who married secondly Sir John Stonleigh) was with her sister Elizabeth, daughter of Alianora, wife to John Lennessey¹. Alianora in all probability was related to the Plessets, but how we cannot prove. Elizabeth was married to Sir Roger Elmerugge, and after her death and that of her sister Milicent, the manor of Combe Byset, *inter alia*, was settled upon John Lennessey, their mother's husband, with remainder to his son John and his wife Johanna of Missenden. This glance at these family relations is necessary to explain the succession of tenants which follows.

1345. This year Hugh Plessets was found to be possessed of Kidlington, Water Eaton, and twenty-two other manors in Oxfordshire², and he in the same year enfeoffed John, the Parson of Hakebourne, and John, the Parson of Emyngton with the whole of this manor, paying £10 to the King for license to do so.

19th Ed. 3rd. 'Hugo de Plecy finem fecit cum Rege pro decem libris pro licentia habenda quod ipse de Manerio suo de Cudlynton cum pertinent: in com: Oxon quod de Rege tenet in capite, feoffare possit Johanem Personam Ecclesiae de Hakebourne et Johannem Personam Ecclesiae de Emynton ðeud' sub certa forma.' Rot. 34³.

1361. John Levesey or Lennessey and Alianora his wife were returned for Hogenorton, Cudlyngton in Oxon, Wittenham in Berkes and Combe Byset² in Wilts, and they paid £40 fine for taking possession of the same³.

¹ Modern Wiltshire, Hundred of Cawden, Sir Colt Hoare.

² Inquisitiones Post Mortem, vol. 2.

³ Abbrevatio rotulorum orig. Ed. III, Rqt. 34 and 49, pp. 176 and 268.

The confusion between the letters n and u in old writings may account for this name. Such a name as Lennessey does not appear in the armoury; but in 'Historic Peerage' by Sir Harris Nicolas,

35th Ed. 3d. 'Johannes Lennessy dat quadraginta libras pro pardonatione acquisitionis maneriorum de Hoggenorton et Cudlyngton cum pertinentibus, in com : Oxon, qua, &c.' Rot. 49.

1364. Hugh Plessets is again returned as feudal Lord of Kedelington, and thirty-four other manors in this county¹.

1366. In this year we find, 'William Audele, Chalgrave, Herdwyk, Cotesford, Cudlyngton manors¹.' This William Audley was one of the family of the Earls of Gloucester, a branch of which gave their name to Stratton Audley. He was of Wolde in Northants, and of Aston Clynton in Bucks, and his wife Johanna was returned at her death in the seventh Richard II., as owning Herdwyk juxta Burcester and manor of Hogenorton.

1374. John, son of John Lennessy, enfeoffed William Ford, Clerk, and others with the manors of Combe Byset, and Hognorton, Cudelyngton² remaining to him¹.

1378. The manor was now in the hands of Elizabeth Elmerugge, cousin to John Lennessy and wife to Sir Roger Elmerugge, Bailiff for the Manor of Woodstock. According to the pedigree to be found in Sir Colt Hoare's, 'Modern Wiltshire,' Elizabeth and her sister Milicent were daughters of Alianora, wife of John Lennessy I., but following another, in Nichols³, daughters of Euphemia Comyn of Savecombe in Hertfordshire, and of William de la Beche of Missenden and Kidlington. From the evidence of the Beche arms in the windows of the church, this latter descent would seem the more probable. This Hertfordshire family of Comyn claimed the same ancestor with Comyn 'the Red,' who was slain in the church of Dumfries. Their residence in Hertfordshire ensued from the Kings of Scotland being feudal lords of that part of the country. Elizabeth Elmerugge long survived her husband, and her twenty years' sojourn in Kidlington seems to have been marked by benefactions to the church, if we may so judge from the frequent repetition of her arms in the windows.

1413. This year we find Elizabeth, wife of Philip la Vache¹, in possession. Philip la Vache succeeded Roger Elmerugge as Bailiff to

Richard Lord St. Amand leaves a legacy to his niece Leverseye, and the St. Amand and Beauchamp arms are in the church windows at Kidlington.

¹ Inquisitiones Post Mortem.

² Modern Wilts, Colt Hoare, Hundred Cawden.

³ Nichols' Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica, vol. 5, p. 169. See pedigree.

Queen Johanna, second consort of Henry IV, for the manor of Woodstock¹; his wife was possibly the same with Eleanor Clifford, daughter of Sir Lewis Clifford, whose will dated 1404 bequeaths 'to Sir Philip la Vache my masse boke and my portooos² and my boke of tribulation to my daughter his wyf³.'

1417. Three years later died Amicia, who had been wife to Robert Bardolf⁴, and relict of John Beverley of Buckinall. Her name was returned for Buckinhall, Godington, Kedilington, Stoklisle, Cokefield, Mapledurham⁵, and other manors. It does not seem improbable that these two families of la Vache and Bardolf may have owed their residence in Kidlington to the favour of Queen Johanna. The Queen had the reversion of a third part of the confiscated property of the unfortunate Lord Bardolf of Wormegey in Norfolk, and she exercised her clemency in behalf of the daughters of the attainted nobleman (one of whom allied herself to the Cliffords, and a second to Sir William Phelip⁶), and of his younger relatives.

1428. In a trial this year it was found that John la Vache was formerly seized of the manor of Hook Norton and that John Trillowe, Knight, was seized of Chesterton; that Philip la Vache had given the manor of Hook Norton to Thomas Chaucer and his heirs, and that John Trillowe had acted in the matter as Attorney or Trustee for Chesterton⁷. From information tendered upon the same trial it was stated that la Vache held Hook Norton and Kidlington of the Fee of d'Oiley, and had previously held Woodstock and other manors in farm from the Queen.

The mention of Chaucer in this trial introduces us to a fresh scene in our history, which we reserve for the following Section.

¹ Marshall's Woodstock, p. 104.

² Cowell's Law Dictionary (1727) gives this word as *Porteos* or *Portuas*, signifying a Breviary; Chaucer has 'For on my Porthose I make an oath.' Under this name the book is prohibited amongst others in 3 and 4 Edward VI.

³ Collins' Peerage, vol. 7, p. 156.

⁴ Robert Bardolf was the last of a branch of the Wormegey family which settled at Mapledurham. He died

issueless and is buried there, and a fine brass is still to be seen to his memory in the church. The grandsons of Amicia by John Beverley were found to be her heirs.

⁵ Dunkin's History and Antiquities of Hundreds of Bullingdon and Ploughley, p. 197.

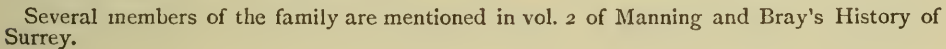
⁶ Burke's Extinct Peerage, p. 26, under Bardolf.

⁷ White Kennet, vol. 2, p. 261.

From Nichols' Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica, vol. 5, p. 169.

Elmerugge.—Checky, argent, and sable.
De la Beche.—Vairré, on a canton a garb.

Nicholas de la Beche, Constable of the Tower of London, obtained the manor of Piddington in 1337 (W. Kennet, vols. 1 and 2).



THE family of Croxford is closely connected with the history of this part of Oxfordshire, and held land in many villages around as well as houses in the city of Oxford. An old tenement once called Neville's Inn¹, stood upon part of the site of Corpus Christi College, and belonged to J. Croxford in the reign of Edward I., and a large tenement for the reception of scholars in All Saints' parish was known by their

¹ Clark's Wood, vol. 1, pp. 515 and 537.

name. Later on their name is found apparently as that of agents to various estates in the neighbourhood.

The earliest mention of the family in Kidlington occurs in the previous notice of the Malets, and they seem to have assumed the arms of the Malet family with some slight difference.

1267. In this year we read that Hugh de Plessets granted to the Convent of Osney the rent of five pounds a year, which he received from Walter de Croxford for houses he held in Kidlington¹. This rent was to be paid to the Abbot by Walter de Croxford at the feasts of Ladye Day and Easter, and the Abbot was to hold the power of distrain in default of payment, but providing a saving clause by which the rights and customary services and dues to Sir Hugh de Plessets were reserved. Croxford gave a bond to the Abbot for the payment of this rent. A garden in Kidlington is also mentioned as belonging to him².

1277. Shortly after an assise of 'novel disseisin' was arraigned at Oxford by Gilbert, son of Walter de Croxford or Crokesford, against Peter Peyntur³ and others, concerning a tenement in Kidlington. Various deeds referring to suits in the neighbourhood were signed by father and son⁴. About the same time Thomas de Croxford was presented to the church of Blechendon, vacant by the resignation of the late vicar; the King claimed the right of presentation, but the cause was gained by John de Croxford and the Musgrave⁴ family, who held the advowson between them.

1333. In the 6 Ed. III. Walter Musgrave, of Kirtlington, remitted 10s. a year rent to John de Croxford, and the deed was signed by Gilbert de Croxford⁴.

1417. Many years later we find Robert de Croxford had letters of protection given him to go abroad in the retinue of Sir William Porter in the King's service⁵.

¹ Annals of Osney, Gough Nicholls MS., No. 22.

² 'Walterum de Croxford—felo breve tantum,' Cudlington gardin, &c. Inq. 16 Ed. I. Post Mort. This garden is probably that referred to in this extract from an Inquisition held 16 Ed. I.: 'Idoniae quae fuit uxor Walteri de Croxkeford suspensi. Breve de inquirendo utrum gardinum sit jus praedictae Idoniae de dono Aliciae quae fuit uxor Roberti de Wotton.' (Calendarium genealogicum, vol. 1, p. 394) (Inquisitio manca est). One of the Wootten family is mentioned

at p. 19. And again 'Cudelinton (Oxf.), appointment of Robert Fulconis and W. de Agmondesham to take assize of mort d'ancestor arraigned by Agnes daughter of Robert de Wotton against John, son of Thomas de Cudelinton, touching a messuage and land in 49th, 50th Report of Dep. K. of Pub. Rec. p. 67, 9 Ed. I.'

³ 46th Report of D. K. of Pub. Records, p. 203, Cal. Pat. Rolls, 5 Ed. I.

⁴ White Kennet, vol. 2.

⁵ Calendar of French Rolls, April 3, West. 5 Hen. V., 44th Report of D. K. of Records, p. 590.

Robert Croxford seems to have acted as agent in Kidlington to the Duke of Suffolk. In the windows of the church were the Suffolk arms emblazoned, and the name of Robert Croxford and Jane his wife inscribed under the shield. From another coat it may be inferred that they intermarried with the Greys, which family was connected with Water Eaton during the lifetime of Charles Brandon.

1467. A lady of the Croxford family was in the service of Alice, Duchess of Suffolk, at Ewelme; a long list of household stuff is endorsed: 'iii billes of certayne stuff delivered by Alson Croxford into the Norserye and i bille indented of stuff delivered to your ladye and i other bille¹.'

1479. Again, we read of their holding land in Hensington; this year Humphrey de Croxford was fined twopence for non-attendance at the Abbot's Court at Osney, held for the above manor².

The Kidlington branch of this family ended with an heiress, the daughter of Thomas Croxford. She married in 1471 George Gaynesford, of Hampton Poyle, son of Sir John Gaynesford, of Crowhurst, co. Surrey. By a deed dated 24th March the same year, Sir Edmund Rede, of Borstall, and Katherine, his wife, covenant with Alice, Duchess of Suffolk, that in consideration of a marriage to be made between George Gaynesford and Isabella Croxford, they will convey the manor of Hampton Poyle with its appurtenances to feoffees to the use of Edmund and Katherine for the term of the life of the said Katherine with remainder to George and Isabella, and the heirs of the body of the said George. In 1472 George Gaynesford and Isabella his wife became possessed of the Manor as tenant in tail, and Isabella dying in 1513, Augustine Gaynesford, her son, sold all the lands of her inheritance in Hampton Poyle and Islip to Jane Bury, widow of Edmund Bury of Culham. The disposal of the Kidlington property is not mentioned. Augustine Gaynesford is styled of Idbury. He married, in 1491, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edward Raleigh, and their son, Edward, married Alice Nowers, of Tackley, leaving a son, John Gaynesford, the husband of Margaret Annesley, of Cornwell, Oxon³.

The crest of the Croxfords appears to have been:—'a demi woman vested and crined or, holding a garland vert in her dexter hand, charged with four roses gules.'

In Fuller's *Worthies* we find a list of 'Gentry in Oxfordshire

¹ Report of Royal Commissioners of Historical MSS., 6 Ed. IV., Dec. 25th, vol. 8, p. 629.

² Marshall's *Woodstock*, p. 133.

³ Turner's *Coll. Oxon*, vol. 17.

returned.' Several names connected with Kidlington occur. '1433, 12 Hen. VI., Robert Croxford, Will, Philip, and John Frere, Thos. Chamberlain, William Raveninge.'

V.—CHAUCER FAMILY.

ARMS.

Roet, used by Alice Chaucer.—Gules, three Catherine wheels or.

This coat of Catherine wheels borne by Chaucer, also by Roet. In window in Thrup aisle, Kidlington church.—Wood MSS. E. 1.

THE name of Geoffrey Chaucer, the father of English poetry, is identified with this part of Oxfordshire. He was a favourite at the Court of Edward III., and tradition assigns him a house at Woodstock, close outside the palace gates, which is still known as Chaucer's house. He followed the king into Flanders, and while there married Philippa Roet¹, the maid of honour and namesake of the Queen, and daughter of a Flemish knight, who was surnamed the 'Picard' from the place of her birth. Her sister Katherine Swinford was the third wife of John of Gaunt, the king's stalwart son, and these circumstances will serve to explain the close connection which existed between Chaucer and the royal family.

Thomas Chaucer, whom some think to be the son of Geoffrey, married Maud Burghwash, the only daughter of a knight belonging to an Anglo-Norman family, whose honours were already on the wane. The double queued lion in the shield (see p. 28) is doubtless inherited from Burghwash. Maud brought with her in dower the manors of Ewelme, Souldern, Donnington, and Thrup².

Thomas Chaucer lived to rise high in his sovereign's estimation and to be entrusted with offices of emolument and honour. He was made Chief Butler of England, and was returned Member of Parliament for Oxfordshire, and became Speaker of the House of Commons³.

1411. In the twelfth year of Henry IV. the Queen Johanna of Navarre granted to him the farm of the Manor of Woodstock and others, upon payment of the yearly rent of £127 16s. 6d.³ This estate had been in the hands of Roger Elmerugge and of Philip la Vache, whose widow in 1413⁴ was found to be possessed of Kidling-

¹ This is now very much doubted by the Chaucer Society; but the arms of Roet appear to have been used by Alice Chaucer in preference to those attributed to Chaucer, which might argue for the marriage.

² Donnington Castle near Newbury

would seem to have been the original property of the Chaucers. See Marshall's Woodstock, p. 107, who quotes from Fuller.

³ Marshall's Woodstock, p. 107 and onwards.

⁴ Inq. Post Mortem 13 Henry VI.

ton. The account in our last Section of la Vache and Bardolf will perhaps throw some light upon the introduction of Chaucer to our Manor of Kidlington.

1418. The seventh year of the reign of King Henry V. found the Court of England at Rouen, with an army intent upon the subjugation of France. Here also was Thomas Chaucer, still in high favour with his master, and in the Norman Rolls of daily proceedings we read of him at Pont de l'Arche, holding a commission with Sir William Haryngton to array the men of Hugh de Bouchier¹. The same year a similar commission was given to array the men of Edward, Earl of Mortaigne, of Richard, Earl of Warwick, of Thomas Chaucer and other knights.

1419. The following year Chaucer was appointed with others, amongst whom was William de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, his future son-in-law, to the honourable commission of treating with Alan de Rohan, Lieutenant of Brittany, touching the final peace with France.

1428. Alice, the only child of Thomas Chaucer, had in her youth been the wife of Sir John Philip², a knight of Norfolk, and connected with the Bardolfs, and about this time she was married as second wife to the valiant Earl of Salisbury, Thomas Montacute, who fell before the walls of Orleans. These two had left her a childless widow, and she took as her third husband William de la Pole, the Earl of Suffolk.

1434. Peace being finally concluded with France, Chaucer came home, and was this year returned with his wife as holding the manor of Kidlington. Two years later, shortly after his death, the Post Mortem Inquisition declares that he died possessed of the manors of Hook Norton and Kidlington held *in capite* of the king, by knight's service. Alice de la Pole, wife of the Earl of Suffolk, was found to be his heir; whereupon the Earl did fealty in right of his wife, and had livery of the estate³.

Maud Chaucer survived her husband, and died upon Saturday next after the feast of SS. Philip and James, 1437, her daughter Alice being then of thirty-two years and upwards.

¹ Dep. K. of Pub. R. Norman Rolls, 7 and 8 Hen. V.; 41st Report, pp. 715, 717, 718; 42nd Report, p. 375. Letters of Attorney to T. C. going abroad, 26 June; 44th Report, p. 620.

² Burke's Extinct Peerage, under Pole.

³ White Kennet, vol. 2. Inq. Post

Mort. Returned as holding 12 manors, 13 and 15 Hen. VI. 'Thomas Chaucer et Matilda uxor ejus.' 'Matilda que fuit uxor Tho. Chaucer Hoggenorton and Cudlington maner,' extent. '10 messuages, 5 tofts, 6 carucates, 100 acres land, 6 acres meadow, 100 acres wood and £20 rent.'

DE LA POLE, EARL OF SUFFOLK.

ARMS.

Pole.—Quarterly, 1st and 4th azure, a fesse between three leopards' heads or.

Fortibus.—2nd and 3rd argent, a chief gules.

Burghwash.—Over all a lion rampant or, double queued.

These arms in church window, Wood, E. 1. Burghwash is written under it. They are probably for John, Duke of Suffolk, quartering de Fortibus inherited through the Plantagenets, and Burghwash from his mother.

1444. William de la Pole had been instrumental in settling terms of peace with France, and in reward for his services he received the honour of Marquess, being girt with a golden cincture and a crown of gold set upon his head. This dignity was accompanied by a grant of £35 a year and some lands in Norfolk, formerly the property of his wife's first husband, Sir John Philip. Now devolved upon him an honour given to few, no matter how high in their king's favour. A marriage had been arranged between the King, Henry VI, and Margaret, daughter of René of Provence, known to us as Margaret of Anjou. To Suffolk was given the commission of wedding the bride by proxy¹, according to the custom of former times. He went to Nancy, and there in the Cathedral church of St. Martin took the marriage vows in his sovereign's name, and then conducted the young Queen to England. As some compensation for the great expenses to which he had been put in this journey, he obtained from the King the wardship of his son in his wife's favour, in case he should die during his son's minority.

Part of his lands in Norfolk he held by a picturesque ceremony of carrying a golden sceptre with a dove upon it at the coronation of the kings, and another of ivory bearing a dove at that of the queens.

During the few years remaining to him, Suffolk founded the hospital at Ewelme, called God's House, and in the manor house there, which he had restored, he delighted to dwell. It was there that his heir was born to him, and in a long list of household goods we read of many delivered into 'The Norserye of Ewelme' by Alson Croxford.

The Marquess of Suffolk was advanced to the dignity of Duke, but he did not long enjoy his honours. Having by his foreign policy excited the hatred of the people, and being accused of the murder of the Duke of Gloucester, he was imprisoned in the Tower. By the intercession of the Queen, who had not forgotten what she owed him,

¹ White Kennet, vol. 2, and Burke's Ext. Peerage.

he was released and was sent over to France for safety. His enemies followed, and he was overtaken by the Duke of Exeter, on board the ship 'Nicholas,' and brought back to Dover. There over the side of a boat his head was struck off without further warrant¹. One of his own captains recovered his body and the head from the sea, and carried them to Wingfield in Suffolk (his mother's inheritance), where they were buried in the collegiate church.

The Duchess of Suffolk, his widow, was interred at Ewelme, where her sumptuous monument is still to be seen.

1463. The family titles and estates were all confiscated to the Crown, but were restored to the son, who succeeded as John, Duke of Suffolk.

In Oxfordshire he inherited the manors of Sulthorn, Throp, Hook Norton, and Kidlington, all of his mother's dowry, of which the two first were of the inheritance of Burghwash, the latter of that of Chaucer.

This Duke John married Elizabeth Plantagenet, sister to Edward IV., and died Constable of Wallingford in 1491. He left five sons and four daughters, of whom the eldest, John, Earl of Lincoln, fell fighting for the Yorkist cause at Stoke, June 16, 1487; the second, Edmund, for the same cause, was executed upon Tower Hill; Richard died an exile at the battle of Pavia, and the remaining two entered the church². The sole survivor of these five sons was a daughter who became a nun of the order of Minoreesses in London, and thus all the honours and lands of Chaucer and Pole fell into the hands of the King.

Camden, speaking of Ewelme, says—

'John, Earl of Lincoln, grandson of William de la Pole, almost utterly ruined his family. For having engaged in the conspiracy against King Henry VII., his honours were lost by attainder, and his estates forfeited to the King, and he himself soon killed in battle. Henry VIII., by adding some other manors, including Wallingford, made an Honour of this estate.'

¹ White Kennet, 21 May, 1449. Inq. Post Mort. 'Will, late Duke of Suffolk (Throp, Cudlynton, Sulthorne and Hanwell; 13 messuages, 16 vir-

gates, and 20 acres land; 34 acres meadow in the same, 28 Hen. VI.'

² Playfair's British family antiquity, vol. 6, p. 694.

PEDIGREE OF CHAUCER AND DE LA POLE.

ARMS.

Pole and Wingfield.—Per pale, Baron et Femme. Dexter quarterly, 1st and 4th Pole, 2nd and 3rd argent on a bend gules, 3 pairs of wings.

Roet.—Sinister, Gules, 3 Catherine wheels or.

This coat repeated several times in the church windows: also with a file of three points. Baron et femme, 1st quarterly, Pole and Wingfield. 2nd Roet or Chaucer. Wood MSS. B. 15 and E. 1.

1. Or. Two knotted cords saltire-wise, over fesse point, a letter O enclosing T sable.

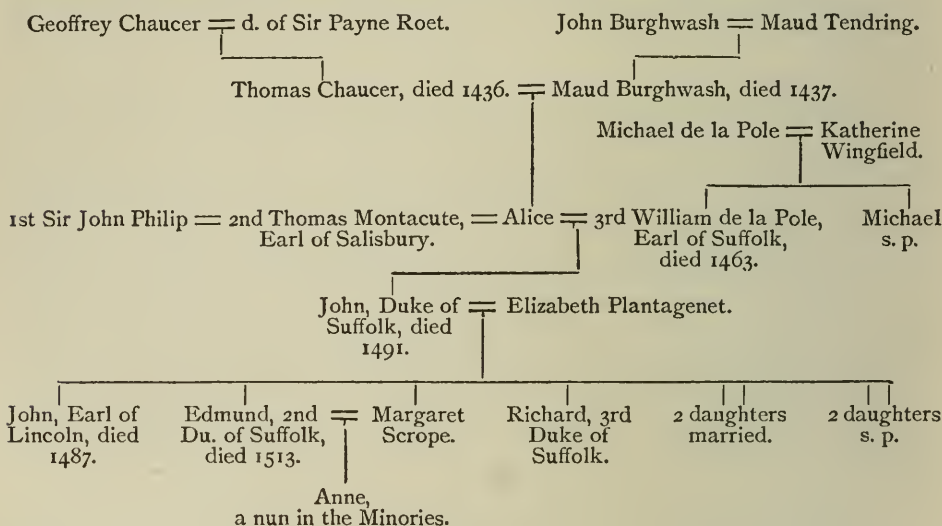
2. Parted per fesse argent and sable, in chief a pike, in base a ram counterchanged.

3. Quarterly, Pole and Burghwash. Argent lion or double queued.

Orate pro animab Thomae Mawnfelde et Johanna uxore ejus.

These three shields were in an upper window together with another, viz. Pole as above with a file of three points. The above inscription under all. Was Thomas Mawnfelde an agent or Bailiff under the Abbey?

The two shields (Nos. 1 and 2) which are repeated in the old glass and upon the carved stalls I think may safely be attributed, the first to Thomas, Abbot of Osney, and the second may well stand for the arms of the town of Kidlington, viz. in chief a *pike*, signifying the fisheries, and a *ram*, signifying the principal industry of the place, the sheep on Campsfield; also be it remembered, the Rood Light was kept alive by the produce of fifteen sheep.



HOWARD, BRANDON AND GREY IN KIDLINGTON.

1510. The next we hear of Kidlington is in the second year of Henry VIII., when part of the confiscated property of John de la Pole, Earl of Lincoln, was granted for life in favour of Anne, daughter of Edward IV., cousin to the late Earl, by his mother Elizabeth Plantagenet.

Anne Plantagenet married Thomas Howard, third Duke of Norfolk. In 'Letters Foreign and Domestic' there is extant an indenture entitled 'Thomas Lord Howard and Ann his wife,' whereby the King covenants (in consequence of their suit for the purparty belonging to the same Anne of the possessions of Anne, Countess of March and

Ulster, mother of Richard, Duke of York, father of Edward IV.) to grant to them in tail by letters patent the castle and manor of Wyngfield; the manors (amongst others) of Cudlyngton, Lewknor, Nuneham Courtney in Oxon . . . in exchange for the inheritance of the said Anne in the lands of Edward IV. The said Thomas to take no benefit after the decease of the said Anne as tenant by curtesy¹.
1 July, 2 Henry VIII. Again,

‘For Anne, wife of Thomas, Lord Howard, and daughter of Edward 4th. Grant in tail as above, the soke and appurtenances of Cudlyngton, Lewknor, Nuneham Courtney, &c., with all the liberties, &c., therein as enjoyed by Elizabeth, late Duchess of Suffolk; which came into the hands of the King Henry 7th by attainder of Edmund de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk’

Dated Windsor, 5 July, 2 Henry VIII.

The manor soon passed by favour of the King to his brother-in-law, Charles Brandon, and if we possess no evidence that he made his residence here, one of his daughters had certainly an interest in Water Eaton.

In the collection of letters mentioned above there occurs a curious correspondence between John, the last Abbot of Osney, and Thomas Cromwell, Secretary of State, . . . as follows:—

. . . ‘We have complied with your desire for the reversion of the Parsonage of Steeplecleidon and Yver. As I am informed there will be letters procured from you and the King for a farm of ours called Water Eaton. My Lord of Suffolk hath it for life, and I granted the reversion two years ago to one of my friends. I beg you therefore to stay your hand and excuse us to the King. I send you a token. Oseney, July 3d (1534).

Duke of Suffolk to Cromwell.

. . . ‘Has received his letter asking for the farm of Wattar Yton for a friend which the Duke holds of the Abbot of Osnay. The Abbot promised him a lease for 40 years, but has handled him in such a manner that he hopes Cromwell will help to acquit him. Granted the farm more than half a year ago to Lord Powes and his wife, the Duke’s daughter. They intend to be there shortly and lie there, so that he cannot comply with Cromwell’s request².’

The above letter refers to Anne, daughter of the Duke by Anne Browne, who was married to Sir Edward Grey, Lord Powys³:

¹ Letters Foreign and Domestic, vol. 7, p. 360.
Henry VIII, vol. 1, pp. 168 and 198.

³ Burke’s Extinct Peerage, p. 79,

² Letters Foreign and Domestic, under Brandon.

another of his daughters, Frances, by Mary Tudor, married Henry Grey¹, who eventually succeeded to his title of Duke of Suffolk upon the death of Henry Brandon. The interest of the Greys in Kidlington appears to have lasted only during the lifetime of Charles Brandon, for a year after the death of the latter the King sold the manor, and thus terminated the connection of Kidlington with the great feudal families. The great Barony of d'Oiley, of which Kidlington was a member, no longer existed as a whole, but each separate manor became the property of the lesser gentry of the county who enriched themselves either by law or by trade.

CHAMBERLAIN, BAILIFFS OF KIDLINGTON.

April, 1532. 'This year Sir Edward and Leonard Chamberlain were appointed joint Stewards and Lieutenants of the Manor of Woodstock and of its members, &c. with 100*s.* a year, and Parkers of the Park there with 3*d.* a day; Bailiffs of the Manor of Kidlington which belonged to John, late Duke of Suffolk, and Rangers of the New Forest at Woodstock; on surrender of Patent granting the same to Sir Edward alone. (10th Sept. 24 Henry 7th).

'Westminster 11 April 23 Hen. 8th².'

Leonard Chamberlain a few years later purchased the manor from the King.

¹ This Henry Grey, Marquis of Dorset, previous to his marriage had been created Baron of Bonville and Harington, and Earl of Stamford. He married Frances daughter of Charles Brandon. Harington's knots (also called Suffolk's knots) are so called from the Frets in the arms. (Playfair's *British Ant.*, vol. 6,

pp. 71 and 73.) The Harington arms are: Sable, a fret argent. Henry Grey, Lord Suffolk, purchased the chantry belonging to the church at Woodstock. Marshall's *Woodstock*, p. 362.

² Letters Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, vol. 5, p. 457.

CHAPTER II.

THE RECTORY AND VICARAGE.

I.—THE VALUE AND EXTENT OF LANDS BELONGING TO OSNEY ABBEY IN CUDLYNGTON AND WATER EATON.

From Valor Ecclesiasticus, vol. 2, p. 216.

CUDLYNGTON.

	£	s.	d.
Worth in the farm of the Rectory with its appurtenances, so demised to Robert Saunders by Indenture . . .	24	0	0
Farm of the Vicarage, yearly so demised to Laurence Atkinson	15	0	0
Farm of the Water Mills so demised to John Dennet . .	14	2	0
Total	£53	2	0

Perpetual reprises in Cudlyngton.

	£	s.	d.
Rents due to the Duke of Suffolk and his heirs for certain customs called 'mete money' and for a certain way ¹ . .	0	11	0
Procurations and synodals to the Archdeacon of Oxford yearly	0	10	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Perpetual alms to the Poor of the Parish at Easter . .	0	12	0
	£1	13	6 $\frac{3}{4}$

Is worth clear £51 8s. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

¹ Can this 'certain way' be the footpath from the Mill to the church?

The same in Water Eaton.

	£	s.	d.
Worth in the rents and customary tenants per annum .	24	3	10
Farm of the site of the Manor with the Demesne, lands and meadows, feedings and pastures belonging to the same, and the tithes thereof yearly, so demised to the Duke of Suffolk	25	0	0
Issue of the pasture called Cuddyslow with two little meadows belonging to the same ¹ , lately demised to John Dennet ² by the year for 66s. 8d., now occupied for the use of the said monastery	4	0	0
Farm of the pasture called Fryce, yearly so demised to John Mawnde by Indenture	6	13	4
And for the small tithes there annually	2	0	0
Total	£61	17	2

Perpetual pension paid to the Prior and Brethren of St.

John of Jerusalem in England £13 6 8

Is worth clear £48 10s. 6d.

*Substance of the Deed relating to the Vicar of Kidlington,
in the Archives of Exeter College.*

1227. The Great Tithes having been appropriated to the Monastery this year the people complained that the service of the church was neglected, the Bishop interfered, and in

1445 he 'Totally annulled the old endowments and endowed it "de novo."'

1st. He assigned to the Vicar a certain messuage with curtilage situate without the gate of the Rectory, on the west side, with one yard land of the demesnes of the Abbot and convent, free of tithe.

2ndly. All the Altarage and oblations, the dead mortuaries, chrismals, tithes of Mills and Grist Mills within the Parish; the charge of the churchyard and all things which in the testaments of the deceased or of the devotion of the faithful shall be given to him.

3rdly. Seven shillings of tithe of hay specified.

¹ The two little meadows mark the site of the old Mill, see ante, p. 1 n. 2

² The following extract is from the 'Annals of Osney' in Bodleian, Gough Nicholls, No. 22—

'John Dennet was Bailiff of the Lordship of Water Eaton.

Paid to him (reprises) £1 13 4

Stipend of the Chaplain of Cudlyngton, yearly 5 6 8

Water Eaton was worth clear to the new Bishoprick of Osney 71 17 9'

Can this sum of £1. 13s. 4d. be identical with that paid by Cudlington as Procurations, synodals and alms?

Dugdale in vol. 6, p. 256, says Water Eaton was worth in Manor pasture £71. 17s. 2d.

4thly. All manner of tithes issuing or to issue out of the newly made closes, 53 in number.

5thly. Four bushels of wheat and the like of barley of the Abbot and Convent yearly at the feast of the Nativity.

6thly. One acre of the said Abbot and tithe free in Thrup mead.

7thly. One halfpenny yearly from each of the parishioners on each of the four following feasts—The feast of the Dedication of the Church—of the Nativity of the Virgin—of the Nativity of our Lord and of Easter.

The Vicar by himself and one chaplain, whom at his own cost and charge, he shall always have living with him, to perform divine service, to provide wax lights in the chancel, the accustomed light upon the feast of the Purification, bread and wine for the Holy Communion, and the surplices (the Clerk of Baptism to be provided by the Abbot and convent, but to take an oath of fealty to the Vicar).

The finding of the Chaplain to cease if the parishioners should cease to provide their part—otherwise if the Vicar fails to provide the Chaplain he is bound to pay under the pain of ecclesiastical censures, so large a sum as shall correspond to the salary of the said Chaplain, to go to the fabric of the church.'

The Vicarage was included in the grant of Elizabeth to Sir William Petre, and by him annexed to the Rectory for ever, the Rector holding without Institution.

This arrangement was confirmed by an Act of 12 Charles II, ch. 17, sec. 23, and is probably a solitary instance in all England of the Rectory and Vicarage being united in the same hands¹.

Two conditions were attached by Petre to the gift, viz.:—

(1) That the Rector should pay for all reparations and charges, and

(2) That the Fellows should be allowed the use of the Vicarage if the plague chanced to be in Oxford.

(3) Of his paying £7 6s. (to be reduced to £4 upon the leases of Kidlington and Merton falling in) annually to the College. This payment has ceased².

The following is the original clause in the Indented Articles between Sir W. Petre and the College, 8th Nov. 8 Elizabeth:—

'Item, that the Vicarage of Cudlington on the Green, parcel of the premises granted unto the said Rector and Scholars and their successors, shall be unto John Neale now Rector of the said College, during only the time he shall continue Rector and to his successors Rectors, he the said

¹ A case for counsel was drawn up in 1846 upon this subject. Mr. Hope, Counsel.

² Dr. Symonds in his MSS. now belonging to Mr. Davenport, County Office,

Oxford, says, 'The Vicar of Kidlington received from the Abbey 4 lbs. of wax and 4 lbs. more upon the feast of the Purification.' The Vicar gave the like quantity to St. George's in Oxford: see p. 2.

John Neale and his successors Rectors there, allowing and paying yearly unto the said College for the uses set forth in these presents, the sum of £7 6*s.* 0*½d.* at the feasts of St. Michael and the Annunciation by equal portions; and seeing the Cure of the said Parish to be served at his the said Rector's and his successors' costs and charges; and seeing the people of the said Parish to be well instructed and taught; and keeping all manner of reparations of the Vicarage house, and all other houses thereto belonging, at the cost and charge of the said Rector for the time being; and suffering the Scholars of the said College, in time of sickness in Oxford freely to have the use of the said Vicarage house during the time of the said sickness.'

This subject was argued in the year 1785, upon the occasion of the Curate, Thomas Bovet, being presented by Lord Thurlow to the Vicarage of Ninehead in Somerset. It appeared that the Vicarage of Kidlington is a lay fee, subject to a payment of £10 to a Curate per annum, and the Rector on vacating the Headship of the College cannot retain the Vicarage; the Rector should grant title to a Curate not as Vicar but as Impropiator of the Vicarage, if he is distinctly so from the rest of the College; but should the Vicarage be given in the grant to the Rector and Fellows, the title should be under the College Seal¹.

1887. Albert Corsellis Richard Freeborn, of Christ Church, Oxford, M.A. 1884, Curate in charge at Kidlington, 1886. First Vicar under the new arrangement².

It would seem from tradition that the privilege of harbour in time of pestilence was more than once exercised by the Fellows of Exeter³.

II.—FROM THE SUPPRESSION OF OSNEY ABBEY UNTIL THE PURCHASE BY SIR WILLIAM PETRE.

1540. In this year (17th Nov.) the Abbey of Osney gave in its surrender to the Crown, and the Deed, declaring Henry King of England to be the Supreme Head of the Church upon earth, was signed by John King, the last Abbot, and all the chief persons of the

¹ Boase's Register of the College, p. 114.

² For terms of this new settlement see Appendix.

³ Three old tenements have been known here by the name of 'the

College^a,' viz., one belonging to Queen's College; the old Workhouse; and a house mentioned in Madame Conant's will as the College . . . But possibly the name may have arisen from their being built in a block.

^a From tradition of inhabitants.

House, amongst others by John Kidlyngton. John King was immediately made Bishop of the new See of Osney, to which Kidlington and Water Eaton were made over. This only lasted for a few years until a fresh change was made, and under a new endowment the See of Osney was changed for that of Oxford, leaving these two manors in the hands of the King. The next twenty years were years of desolation for Kidlington, with no pastor, and the ornaments and riches of the church seized by rapacious hands.

1547. The first year of King Edward was marked by a fresh deed of plunder, when the chantries, founded by our pious forefathers to pray for the repose of the dead, were stripped of their endowments. A commission was appointed by the government to enquire into and consequently to confiscate all such remaining church property.

Their report was drawn up under six headings¹, viz. :—

‘ 1st. The parish of Kidlington where are houselynge people—cxlviiij.

2nd. A light and obiit there.

3rd. Certayne lande gyven to the mayntenance of a lyght iiij^d and one obiit iiij^s in the said parish church for ever.

4th. Incumbent, none.

5th. The value of all the lands and tenements to the same belongyng is yearly iiij^s iiij^d.

6th. Ornaments, plate, and jewels to the same belonging none. Stocke in cattal not presed, xv shepe.

Mm. The said stocke in cattal was gyven to the Rodelight in the said church for ever².

1530. Ten years previous to the deed of surrender the Abbot of Osney had given a lease for life of his house and farm in Kidlington to Robert Saunders and Agnes his wife.

1548. In this year Edward VI gave the reversion of the lease to Richard Taverner for twenty-one years at the rent of £20, but the lease was not resigned for more than six years afterwards.

Richard Taverner was a man of some note in Oxford, and a short sketch of his life may not be out of place here.

Twenty years before this time Cardinal Wolsey proposed to found a new College out of the proceeds of the great Abbey, he chose two-thirds of the men required for the foundation from the University of Oxford, the remaining third being brought by him from Cambridge,

¹ Augmentation office, Certificate 38, No. 27. Record office.

² Here we seem to see the end of the light burning before the Crucifix for the soul of Henry d'Oiley and all

Christian men, in 1267. See p. 14. The proportion of houselynge people is considered to be rather less than half the population.

in order to infuse a new spirit into the learning of the day. Learning is said to have fallen to a very low ebb in the sister University, and the Cardinal proposing to excite some emulation among the scholars, chose from among them the required number, both of Graduates and Undergraduates, to fill the vacancies in his new Foundation. Among the latter was Richard Taverner, then of one and a half years' standing. He was probably from Lincolnshire, for Fox styles John Taverner, who was the Organist at the College, a Boston man. Many of these imported scholars failed to satisfy their Patron's desires, but Taverner became a good scholar of his time. Lutheranism was then showing itself in Oxford, and the two Taverners laid themselves open to suspicion of being infected with the new teaching. The accusation against John Taverner was met by the Cardinal with the contemptuous remark that 'he was only a musician and could do no harm'; while Richard concealed his opinions sufficiently well to escape the imprisonment which befel many of his companions. He was made a minor Canon, and 'when the times began to turn and religions alter he proved an eminent stickler against the Popish religion.' Shaping his views to the fashion of the day seems to have prospered with Taverner, and he became possessed of much property in Oxford and the neighbourhood. We find the name of the family both at Wood and at Water Eaton¹.

During King Edward's reign religion had fallen so low that only two preachers were to be found in Oxford 'that preached upon the Lord's Day, and that not constantly,' viz., Mr. Thomas Sampson and the President of Magdalen College, Dr. Humphries. When Sampson left the University, and Humphries was often absent, Taverner, always equal to the occasion, several times preached in Oxford. He came into St. Mary's church 'out of pure charity,' with a gold chain about his neck and a sword at his side, though Wood declares this to be a calumny, as he always preached in a damask robe. It is most probable, from this account, that he frequently preached in the church at Kidlington. The King had granted him, though still a layman, license to preach the Word of God in any church in his Majesty's dominions, being incited to this by the dearth of ministers at that time, and hence we may likewise infer the desolation of the people in religious matters. Richard Taverner was buried at Wood Eaton. He had held the office of Clerk to the Signet to Henry VIII. and to

¹ This account of Taverner is principally taken from Gutch, Annals, vol. 2; Turner's Records of City of Oxford.

his son, and he left behind him the character of 'being a good scholar, but an enemy not only to the Catholic religion but to the ceremonies of the Church of England then in their infancy.'

We have no information how matters went in Kidlington during the reign of Queen Mary. No doubt the old religion and its rites once more appeared in the parish church to gladden the people, who for the most part were still attached to the faith of their forefathers, and some of the dispossessed religious of the Abbey were doubtless at hand to minister to their spiritual wants, and officiate once more at the old altar. However that may have been, and whatever the feelings the people may have shown at the change, it was not for long. Queen Elizabeth succeeded to her sister, and all signs of the revival of the old faith were soon suppressed.

The Rectory farm at Kidlington was let by the Queen to Thomas Frauncys, M.D., upon a lease of thirty years at £20 a year, and shortly after the whole of the property in Kidlington which had belonged to Osney, including the Rectory, Vicarage, and Mills, was sold to Sir William Petre, Knight.

III.—THE VICARAGE SINCE SIR W. PETRE'S TIME.

In the last section we saw that Sir W. Petre annexed the Vicarage to the Rectory for ever, reserving certain rights to the College, among which was the right of using the Vicarage House as a refuge when driven from Oxford by the plague. The visitation of terrible epidemics was of very frequent occurrence in the sixteenth century ¹.

1622. The next notice we have of the Vicarage House is in 1622, when Dr. John Prideaux, Rector, covenanted to grant a lease to Ambrose Saunders, of

'the Vicarage with lands tithes and house for £50 a year. He reserved to himself the use of one chamber and a little study thereunto adjoining and the tithes of Gosford. The said Rector Prideaux covenanted by himself and one serving priest to keep the cure of the church and say divine service and administer the divine sacraments and sacramentals to the parishioners and to discharge all payments relating to the cure of the Church ².'

¹ In 1563 the Plague was so violent that only one of the Heads of Colleges was found at his post and the Rector of Exeter could not be elected, so it is

probable that the Fellows may have occupied the vicarage during this year.

² The Catholic Dictionary, by Thos. Arnold, M.A., 1885, London, defines

In 1805 the land tax¹ upon Vicarage House was redeemed, and a few years later a faculty from the Bishop was obtained by the College to reduce the existing house, which was become ruinous and too large for the requirements of the time. This was accordingly done, and the road accounts of the parish show what became of the surplus stone. The house was reduced in size and made suitable for the dwelling of the clergyman of the parish. Under the Enclosure Award the Vicarial tithes were charged upon Stratfield and Kidlington Green. The tithe of the Green in 1794 was of the yearly value of £255, viz., upon 300 acres carrying 200 cows worth £8 a piece. 'The Vicarage estate of Stratfield was 202 acres, 84 arable, 107 pasture, and 11 coppice².' It was enclosed in 1821, and in 1837 the College voted £500 to erect farm buildings and fences upon it, and £100 further sum for repairs.

THE VICARS OF KIDLINGTON.

1225. Thomas, chaplain, presented to the perpetual Vicarage of Cude-
lington (regulated as by previous Episcopal ordinance) by the Abbot and
Canons of Osney.

1239, 1243. Abbot and Convent presented.

Henry, resigned.

1259. Hugh, chaplain, presented by Richard Appletree 9th Abbot.

1260. Roger, priest, to vicarage vacant by death of Hugh.

William, died.

1277, 14 Oct. Philip of Oxford chaplain to the vicarage vacant by the
institution of Roger chaplain, the last vicar, to the church of Cornwell.

1300-1320. John de Ottington, presented by Abbot and Convent.

Henry Wylby, died.

1347-1363. 13 March, 1347, Thomas de Hynton, priest, presented by
Abbot, &c., vacant by resignation of John de Hals, the last vicar, who has
exchanged for the church of Hynton.

1349, 19 July. Henry de Kilmry, priest, presented by Abbot, &c.

2 Richard 2d. William Vicar of Cud. and others rent certain lands in
Stone and Hertwell.

1386 circa. Thomas Puteslo was Vicar of Kid., 10 Richard 2d. He
and John Havyl grant to the Abbot and Convent of Osney a messuage and
virgate of land in some place in Oxon³.

'Sacramentals to be rites which have
some outward resemblance to sacra-
ments, but are not of divine institution.
The sacramentals are enumerated in the
following line :—'Orans, tinctus, edens,
confessus, dans, benedicens.'

¹ The land tax was redeemed upon

Kidlington Rectory and Vicarage 1803
and 1805, respectively, Register, Boase,
p. 117.

² Dr. Symonds' MSS., vol. 8, p. 293.

³ Cat. of MSS. (Turner and Coxe) in
Bodley, Charter 195 and 385.

1361, 22 Aug. William de Otyngdon, priest, presented by Abbot, &c. to vicarage vacant by death of Henry Byby.

1405-1420. John Welkes, presented by Abbot and Convent. Resigned.

1407, 11 Sept. Magister John Colles, priest, presented on death of Sir William Odyngton. John Collys, vicar of Kyddelington, was on a jury appointed to enquire into a vacancy of the Chantry of the Holy Trinity in All Saints, Oxon, 14 Jan. 1417.

1431, 23 Feb. Sir John Wellys, perpetual Vicar of the parish church of Cudlyngton, exchanged with Magister William Busshell, rector of St. George near Eschepe in London, presented by Abbot and Convent. Resigned.

1433, 4 March. John Bradstone, priest, presented by Abbot and Convent on resignation of Sir William Busshell who had exchanged for the parish church of Bladon. Resigned.

1440, 1 Dec. Lewis Neth, priest, presented by Abbot and Convent on resignation of John Bradston. Resigned.

L. Neth supplicated for B. Can. Law 21 Feb. 145⁵/₆, and was admitted 1 March, 145⁵/₆.

During his incumbency the new settlement was made.

Lewis Neth gave in his resignation to the Bishop, and he was subsequently instituted Rector of Kiddington.

1474, 2 Oct. Magister John Lane, priest, presented by the Archdeacon Lionel Wydeville, to the perpetual Vicarage of Cudlington in the Diocese of Lincoln. Died.

1499, 21 April. Master Roger Sandford (Sondeford), Bachelor of both laws, presented by the Abbot and Convent on the death of John Lane, upon the free resignation of Master Richard Inglesant. (Richard Inglesant was probably Chaplain under the Vicar and had the right of the next presentation.)

1502, 29 Oct. Sir Christopher Lathum, priest, B.A., appointed on resignation of Roger Sondeforth, exchanged the church of Buckenhall with the next Vicar. He died at Bucknall in 1505.

1503, 22 Sept. Edmund Croston, M.A., presented by the Abbot and Convent, having exchanged with the above. Resigned.

Edmund Croston was a native of Lincolnshire, one of Bishop Smith's Almoners. He was presented to Bucknall by Osney Abbey, exchanged to Kidlington. In 1502 he had been appointed with Ed. Powell by the Bishop to arbitrate on a dispute between St. Frideswide's and Edmund Ayleard. He also held the Prebends of Spaldwick and Biggleswade, and left Kidlington for the Rectory of Winwich, Northants in 1505. He was for two years Principal of Brasenose Hall, where he died 1507-8, being the first benefactor of Brasenose College, to which he left his money and books. He is buried before the

altar of St. Catherine in the church of St. Mary the Virgin, and had a handsome monument¹ with inscription in brass erected to him. The inscription is still to be seen fixed over the door going into Adam de Brome's chapel with his arms or family rebus, a cross piercing 4 tuns².

26 July, 1505. John Morgan, M.A., presented by Abbot and Convent of Oseney to the perpetual vicarage of Cudelington vacant by resignation of Master Edmund Croxton.

10 June, 1506. Master Laurence Stubbys, S.T.B., presented by Abbot, &c., to vicarage vacant by death of Master John Morgan.

Stubbs became President of Magdalen 1525. He appears to have remained Vicar until the year 1514, in which year he signed a Bond discharging all claims that might arise in Cudlington between him and the Abbot of Oseney³. The same year he is styled D.D. of Magdalen College, and one of the 'Commissaries.'

In 1525 he was elected President of Magdalen College, which post he resigned two years later; there appears to have been some controversy about his Election⁴. In 1529 we find him erecting a stained glass window in chapel of Balliol College. At present, portions of this window are in the Library of the Undergraduates at Balliol, at the south end of the room. In a top light he is represented kneeling at a desk clad in hood and gown. Above his head is the date 1529, and beneath the desk a shield with the initials L. S. In the two lights below are the figures of St. Laurence and St. Nicholas, and at the foot of each the annexed shields, which Anthony à Wood says were put there by Laurence Stubbs. The stub or stump of a tree is a pun upon his name; the other shield appears to have been composed from the leopard's heads of De la Pole, perhaps a recollection of Kidlington, the lilies of Magdalen College, and a Pheon or lance head.

FIRST SHIELD.—A chevron engrailed, charged with three leopards' heads. In chief, two stubs and two lilies and cross keys. In base, a Pheon.

SECOND SHIELD.—A stub pierced fesse-wise by an arrow.
Each shield enclosed in a wreath.

1512. '7th August. St. Mary's, Osseney, near Oxford.

Licence for William the Abbot and the Convent to obtain from Rome letters of exemption for the monastery and chapels annexed, also letters of perpetual annexation of the two Vicarages of Kydlynton and Hook-

¹ A full description of which will be found in Turner, MS. Top. Oxon, vol. 7, p. 192.

² From Churton's life of Bp. Smith.

³ Oxford Charters, 387, Bodleian Library, 6th Hen. VIII.

⁴ Gutch, Annals, vol. 3.

norton, Lincoln Diocese, the Rectories of which have been appropriated to the monastery. Del' Croydon, 7th Aug., 4 Hen. 8¹.

1520. In this year we read in the University Register of a Dominican Friar from Oxford coming here to preach a sermon upon the 3rd Nov.

'John de Vadys, Dominican, supplicator for B.D.: he is to preach a sermon at Kydlyngton.'

This being the year in which the new doctrines of Martin Luther were publicly condemned by the Pope and burnt, will it be presumptuous to guess at the subject matter of this sermon?

1545. Henry Laurence, Vicar of Kidlington, made his will. He was the last Vicar under the ancient administration. Three years later it is reported 'there is no Incumbent'.

WILLS OF SOME OF THE PARISHIONERS OF KIDLINGTON, from Turner's transcript of Archdeacon's records².

'1542, Oct. 8. John Denet of Water Eaton bequeaths his body to be buried in the Churchyard of St. Mary's of Kidlington. To our Jhesus Stone at Kid. a sheepe. Item, unto the High Altar iiij^d.'

'1543, Aug. 23. John Thomas of Kidlington bequeaths to vj poor folks that have chyldren vj payre of Shetts and at my daye of buryall I bequeathe xx^s to be bestowed above my buryall to poor people. Item I wold yt iij of Kyen (kine) be solde and the money thereof to be bestowed upon my moneth's mynde to poore people.'

1544. 'Jan. 6th. John Susar of Kidlington bequeaths to the High Altar ij^d. To Jesus altar ij^d. To the Bells ij^d. To the Torches ij^d.

Witness, Sir John Pyckard.'

1544. 'June 10th. Elizabeth Fletcher of Kidlington bequeaths to the High Altar xij^d. To the maintenance of the Bells xij^d. To the Stone of Jesus iiij^d.'

1544. 'July 9th. Margaret Baret widow of Kid. bequeaths to the High Altar of Kid. ij^d. To the maintenance of the bells a Bushell of Barley. To the Stone of Jesus a Bushell of Barley. To the 3 men who ring the bells at the day of my burial viij^d and likewise to iij men that carry my body to church iiij^d.'

1544. 'Sept. 27th. Richard Risten of Kid. bequeaths to the High Altar ij^d. To Jesus altar a stryke of barley. To the Bells ij^d.'

1544. 'Aug. 28th. Richard Harper of Water Eaton bequeaths to the High Altar of Kid. ij^d.'

John Danyell, curate, these witness.'

1544. 'Sept. 9th. Richard Travis of Water Eaton bequeaths to the High Altar of Kid. xij^d. To Jesus altar viij^d. To the rode light xij^d. To

¹ Cal. letters foreign and domestic, vol. 1, p. 403.

² Coll. for Oxon, vol. 6; Wills, MS. Top. Oxon, c. 47.

the Bells xij^d. To the Torches viij^d. To the reparation of the church xx^d.'

1544. 'Oct. 13th. Robert Macham of Kid. bequeaths to the High Altar iiij^d.'

1545. 'Sept. 15th. William Andrews of Kid. bequeaths to the High Altar iiij^d. To the Torches ij^d. To the Bells ij^d.

John Pyckard, curate, witness.'

1545. 'June 5th. Henry Laurence Vicar of Kidlington bequeaths his body to be buried in Kid. church within the chancel of our Blessed Lady: Item, I bequeath to the Stone of Jesus iij^s iiij^d. Item, I bequeath to the bell ringers at my burial viij^d. Item, I bequeath to Exeter College, Oxon, xl^s and all my books which xl^s I will the Rector and Fellows of the said College of Mr. Bale parson of Honiton in Devonshire owing to me to said sum.' Augustine Cross, priest, witnessed.

This was the last Vicar before the new disposal of the Vicarage.

The 'Stone of Jesus' may have been the Easter Sepulchre, if not the same with the Jesus altar. No doubt if the whitewash were removed, some emblem would be revealed to decide the question. In conventual churches it was usual to have the choir screened off for the use of the community. Outside the screen was another altar where daily mass would be said and the Blessed Sacrament reserved for the devotion of the people, and this was called the 'Jesus altar.'

The piscina belonging to this altar is still in its place in this church.

IV.—SIR WILLIAM PETRE AND EXETER COLLEGE.

Dr. William Petre had been one of the Commissioners, with Thomas Cromwell in the 27 Henry VIII., appointed to enquire into the conduct of all the monasteries in England, that their enormities might be discovered or *rather* that their lands might be confiscated. As a reward for this service he was knighted, and obtained for himself and Gertrude his wife in fee the advowsons of the Priory of Clattercote, with the Churches of Merton, Yarnton, Kidlington, and Long Wittenham, which four latter he gave to Exeter College. Sir William, adhering to the Catholic religion under Mary, found it incumbent upon him to apply to the Pope for license to hold church lands, and from Paul IV. he obtained permission to purchase abbey lands. During Queen Mary's reign the Pope, through Cardinal Pole, granted absolution to all Catholic holders of church property at that time, an indulgence which nevertheless did not prevent the Queen from restoring to the church all she held in her private possession. Sir William Petre made this solemn resolution for his own guidance, 'that he would resign

all rectories or appropriated tithes and glebe to their first spiritual uses, and was ready to make immediate restitution for that purpose¹.

1565. The purchase of the church property in Kidlington by Sir W. Petre took place in this year, Thomas Frauncys being the actual tenant. The words of the Deed are as follows:—

‘Wheras our brother Edward by letters patent in 1548 to-farm-let to Richard Taverner the Rectory and Mansion of Cudlyngton upon the Greene with the buildings and tithes, &c. (after the end of the estate of Robert Saunders) for 21 years at the rent of £20 and wheras we have to-farm-let to Thomas Frauncis² the reversion of the said rectory for 30 years at £20, and wheras we to-farm-let to John Chamberlayne some lands in Thorp then occupied by Humphrey Wells³:

Know ye that we for a sum of £1376 11s. 4½d. from Sir William Petre grant the said Wm. Petre the reversion of the said Rectory of Cudlington with the buildings and the two messuages in Thorp lately belonging to Godstow, all without reserving any rent except the £10 issuing from Cudlington for the Curate’s stipend⁴.

1566. The following year Sir W. Petre settled his new purchase upon Exeter College, with the Manor of Little Tew, which he had acquired at the same time⁵. This was followed three years later by the purchase and gift of the Mills of Kidlington to the same College, Dr. Nele being at that time Rector.

The thirty years’ lease to Thomas Frauncis was allowed to run out before the College took any substantial benefit from their new property. In 1591 the College undertook a lawsuit against William Raynsford, of Little Tew, for unlawful possession of the Rectory House, and also to examine into his claims to the manor of Little Tew. His lease of this manor dated from 6th August, 1509; he seems to have

¹ White Kennet, vol. 2, p. 55, &c.

² ‘Thomas Francis of Christ Church, after he had taken his degree of A.M. gave up Divinity and entered in the physic line 1550, King’s Professor of Physic, as Deputy for Dr. Warner 1552, M.B. 1553, Provost of Queen’s 1561, Physician to Queen Elizabeth, and much respected by her.’ Athenae Bliss, vol. 5.

³ For Chamberlayne, see p. 26. He married a daughter of George Owen, and thus perhaps came into possession of the fields in Thrup, the former property of Godstow. Marshall’s Woodstock, p. 145. Chamberlain’s rent to the college was 53s. 3d. Coll. papers—Valor Eccl., Thrup. Godstow monas-

tery.—‘Received of Humphrey Weyle for a Copy of the Court for the rent of his farm, £2 13s. 4d.

⁴ Deed in Archives of Exeter Coll., also printed in Register of Exeter, by C. W. Boase, p. 206.

⁵ ‘1566. Computus Rectoris—a M. Taverner pro rectoria nostra de Cudlington, xiiii¹ vi⁸ viii^d.’ Register of College, Boase, p. 181. Richard Taverner’s town house was at the west corner of High Street and Alfred Street and was formerly known as Parn or Tabard Hall. Wood, Clark, vol. 1. p. 149. The rectory house must have been partly rebuilt at this time, as upon a stone above one of the chimneys in an upper room is the date in old characters, 1578.

lost the suit, for the expenses were finally paid by cutting down the trees upon the estate of Little Tew by the College, and they finally sold that property.

1594. The issue of this dispute being probably doubtful, three years later the Queen addressed a letter to the Fellows of the College requesting them to give a lease of the house at Kidlington to one Robert Knollys. What came of this request, which was one among many of her Majesty's in favour of her needy courtiers, we do not know, but the estate was undertaken by the College, and a lease granted to one of the Fellows.

'1601, 16 July, The Rectory of Kidlington was let to James Eveleigh, Fellow of Exeter, for 10 years, at a fine of £300¹.'

1639. Edward Standard, the son of Friswith Raynsford, took up the lease, and it continued in his descendants' name for nearly two hundred years. The lease was from ten years onwards, renewable every third year upon fine.

V.—TENANTS OF THE RECTORY OR PARSONAGE HOUSE OF CUDELINGTON ON THE GREEN.

1530. Tenants for life from the Abbot of Oseney. Robert Saunders and Agnes his wife.

1548. The reversion granted by Edward 6th to Richard Taverner.

155⁴/₅. Robert Saunders resigns his lease in favour of Taverner. To Thomas Frauncis M.D. from Queen Elizabeth for 30 years.

1565. Sale of the estate to Sir William Petre.

1566. Sir William Petre conveyed it to Exeter College.

1591. The lease to Frauncys expiring College went to law with William Raynsford.

1594. Letter from the Queen in favor of Robert Knowllys.

1601. The College took the estate in hand. Lease to Eveleigh for 10 years.

1639. Lease to Edward Standard.

A gap here occurs which probably should be for Thomas Standard.

1690. Thomas Smith.

1706. Humphrey Smith.

1719. Mary Smith.

1721. Heywood, Executor to Humphrey Smith.

1721. Joseph Tyrrel.

1784. Joseph Tyrrel.

1787. George Knapp.

1809. Henry Knapp.

1810. Bought out by the College.

1811. Mr. Hall, brewer.

¹ Register u.s., p. 49.

FAMILY OF STANDARD.

ARMS.

Vert, an arrow in pale, point downwards argent.

The family of Standard owned the Manor of Whitehill, in the parish of Tackley, which they obtained by marriage with the heiress of that estate. Previous to this there is no local record of their name. Edward Standard, whose marriage with a Raynsford seems to have led to his taking the lease of the Rectory at Kidlington, was settled in Oxford, where his children were born. Their mother was Elizabeth Holloway, of Water Eaton; shortly after her death he married Margaret Fifield, of Farmington (Gloucestershire), and he is buried with her in the chancel of the church of Kidlington. His eldest son, Dr. John Standard, was elected Fellow of Exeter College, which place he held for sixteen years. He relinquished it, in favour of his brother Anthony, upon his marriage with Bridget Lenthal, the sister to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and daughter to Sir John Lenthal, of Cutslow. Dr. Standard does not appear to have lived in Kidlington, but one son, who from his epitaph must have been especially dear, lies in the chancel of the church there. He himself and his eldest child were buried at Tackley, where he had been Rector for many years. Of the remaining children, one William became Fellow of Exeter, but on his marriage he settled in Devon, and the rest of the family appear to have left this county. A branch lived at Middleton Stoney in an old house now pulled down, called 'The Priory' ¹.

Thomas Standard succeeded his father Edward in the lease at Kidlington. He married Margaret, his cousin, daughter of Robert Standard, of Shipton. Of his two daughters, the second married Thomas Smith, the elder died in infancy. Although the lease to Thomas Standard appears to have been lost, it is evident from the succeeding one to Smith, that he had been in possession: for Thomas Smith succeeded in right of his wife, who is said to have been daughter and heiress of Thomas Standard ².

1690. This year the lease is renewed to Smith upon the death of his father-in-law. In the Parish Register he is styled of 'Elsfield.' He and his wife both died in the year 1706, and their son Humphrey succeeded to them.

¹ Parish Register of Middleton. They were also at Arncot.

Standard was buried in woollen.' Overseer's book.

² '1686, 25 Feb. Mr. Thomas

1719. Upon the death of Humphrey Smith the name of his wife Mary appears, and two years later Heywood of Oxford signs as the remaining trustee.

We shall reserve any further notice of this family of Smith for a separate section; it was of considerable importance in the Parish, and in its various branches filled an honourable place in our history.

1721-1784. Next we come to Joseph Tyrrell, father and son. The Tyrrells seem to have been introduced into Kidlington by the marriage of Mr. Mann with the heiress of Tyrrell of Hanslape. In 1753 Katherine Tyrrell married George Knapp, and the lease was renewed in his name¹.

1787. Henry Knapp succeeded, when, upon his refusal to renew, the lease was allowed to run out. The fine of £300 was divided among the Fellows of the College, and the following year Knapp's lease was bought up. The land tax was redeemed upon the Rectory in 1803.

1811. This year the Parsonage house and farm was let to Mr. Hall, brewer, upon condition he should lay out a considerable sum upon the erection of barns and home stables, and upon the arable land.

After Mr. Hall's tenancy expired, Mr. William Fitzherbert Young rented the farm and house².

1821. The enclosure of the parish materially affected the value of this property. Fifty years previous it had been valued at £460 16s. a year, after the enclosure was effected the value rose to £1000. Under the Award, Exeter College got the fifth part in value of all arable, the seventh of greensward, called Campsfield³, and the ninth of all other meadows and pastures in Kidlington and Thrup which are subject to tithes.

1845. The estate was increased by the purchase of property in

¹ '1786. On Tuesday morning died at Kidlington, aged about 80, Joseph Tyrrell, Esq. He was a gentleman of very considerable fortune, which we understand he has bequeathed to his sisters and nephews.' A Scrap book of newspaper cuttings. Gough's Add. Oxon, 4^o. 49.—In Bodleian. The dates and particulars of this lease are from the Archives of Exeter College. The Knapps were related to the Smiths, and inherited all their property near Headington. They are buried in the new

churchyard of St. Clement's, Oxford. Mr. Knapp was M.P. for Abingdon. Arthur Young remarks that he had a thrashing machine (a novelty in his time) of two horse-power. It was built by Freeman of Stony Middleton, and cost fifty guineas.

² See History of Begbroke.

³ Campsfield so called from the vicinity of the castle or camp at Begbroke. Hearne says, 'I believe there were other camps on this great field.' Bliss, Remains, p. 393.

Church End from the Executors of Bond Spindlow, of Gosford Hill, formerly the property of the Rev. John Austin, the representative of Almont. This was a house and premises with Austin's close and meadows adjoining.

The fund for this purchase was what was known as the 'Jesus Fund,' being £1000 arising from the sale to Jesus College of an old tenement in Oxford called Leadenhall¹.

1863. The farm called 'Frise' or the 'Frizers' was bought from Colonel Fuller, including timber and expenses, for the sum of £6340 10s. 2d. Shortly after the old house² in Church End was acquired from Brasenose College.

The Rectorial tithes are charged upon the land lying between the village and the river and the meadows near Thrup, and what was known as 'Copton field,' lying upon the Oxford and Banbury road.

1873. The house near the Mill, an old estate of the Smiths, was bought by the College with eighty-three acres of land.

So far this account of the property represents what belongs to the Rector as representing the Abbot of Osney. What appertains to him as Vicar is noticed in the history of the Vicarage.

VI.—KIDLINGTON MILL,

With the Right of Fishing attached to it.

1220-30. The Water Mill at Kidlington is mentioned in Domesday as worth 30s. Early in the thirteenth century Henry d'Oiley assigned his rents from the Mill to the Church in the following terms:—

'Henry de Oylly grants to the church and canons of Osney for the health of his soul and the souls of his predecessors and successors especially for Sibyl his wife and Matilda his daughter, 100^s of rent annual for which he assigns to them 60^s which he was accustomed to receive from his mill at Cudlington and the homage and service of Elye the Miller and his heirs; also he gives to them in his same manor, in frankalmoigne one virgate of land, namely that which Ralph Riveling held with a messuage and croft and with all that appertains to it within and without the village.' Charter 380³.

1240-60. This gift was supplemented and completed by the tenants and holders of the Mill in this manner.

¹ On the award map Nos. 180, 181, 182 and four cottages No. 174. Boase's Reg. of Exeter Coll., p. 218.

² On map, No. 183.

³ Catalogue of Charters, Turner and Cox, Bodl.

Warine Fitz Elye gave the Mill at Cudlington¹. William son of Elye the Miller (formerly) of Cudlington grants to the Church and Canons of Osney in Frankalmoigne a fishery in Cherwell with appurtenances. Alice the relict of Elye the Miller quit claimed to Osney Abbey her right in the lands and tenements in the village of Cudlington which her husband had there². Charter 381 & 384.

1267. In this year the Mill is referred to as the property of the Abbey³, and in the Valor Ecclesiasticus it is assessed amongst their other properties at £14 2s. per annum.

Upon the suppression of the House it fell to Christ Church with the remainder of the Abbey lands in Kidlington, but after the change in the Bishopric it remained in the King's hands, the leases granted by Christ Church still standing.

1545. There is extant a bond between Dr. Richard Cox, Dean of that College, and John Denet, sometime Bailiff of Water Eaton, under the late Abbot, for the lease of the Mill at Kidlington, with its actual tenant Sam Newton. Three years after the purchase of the Rectory Sir William Petre bought the Mill and the right⁴ of fishing over half a mile with Dr. Kenal's⁵ house in Oxford for the sum of £116, and made it all over to Exeter College.

In the original Deed it is described as follows:

'Duo⁶ molendina aquatica cum uno cotagio stabulo et uno quartero terre situat &c. ac etiam decimas ac eorumdem molendinorum ac etiam aquam et piscariam ejusdem aquae a Prichman's weare usque ad Dowker's wear.'

This last name reminds us of Thomas Dowcra, the last Prior of the Knights of St. John. May he not have created this weir near his house at Gosford?

The tenants of the Mill since Sam Newton have been: From 1633 to 1675, John Holloway and his wife. From 1675 to 1711, Martin May, whose seal is attached to his lease. From 1711 to 1732, Rowney. From 1732 to 1776, Henry Barret. From 1776 to 1790, Hanwell. Then Edward and Thomas Nicholls, and in 1832, William Scroggs.

¹ Chartulary of Osney Abbey at Christ Church, p. 43.

² Catalogue of MSS. in Bodley, u. s.

³ See pp. 14 and 33.

⁴ The fishing in the river here appears to have been let to a separate person

from the miller; in all the list of tenants the 'Fisherman' is mentioned.

⁵ It is not known where Dr. Kenal's house stood.

⁶ Each pair of stones was reckoned as a Mill.

THE FAMILY OF SCROGGS.

Some members of this family have been for many years settled in Kidlington. They are of the yeoman family of the same name at Deddington, of whom came Judge Scroggs. The name is occasionally spelt Scraggs, which variation is traditionally accounted for by the dislike of certain members of the family to sign their name in the same way as the notorious judge.

The earliest marriage in the Kidlington Register of this family occurs in 1751.

PEDIGREE OF STANDARD OF WHITEHILL AND KIDLINGTON,
CO. OXFORD.

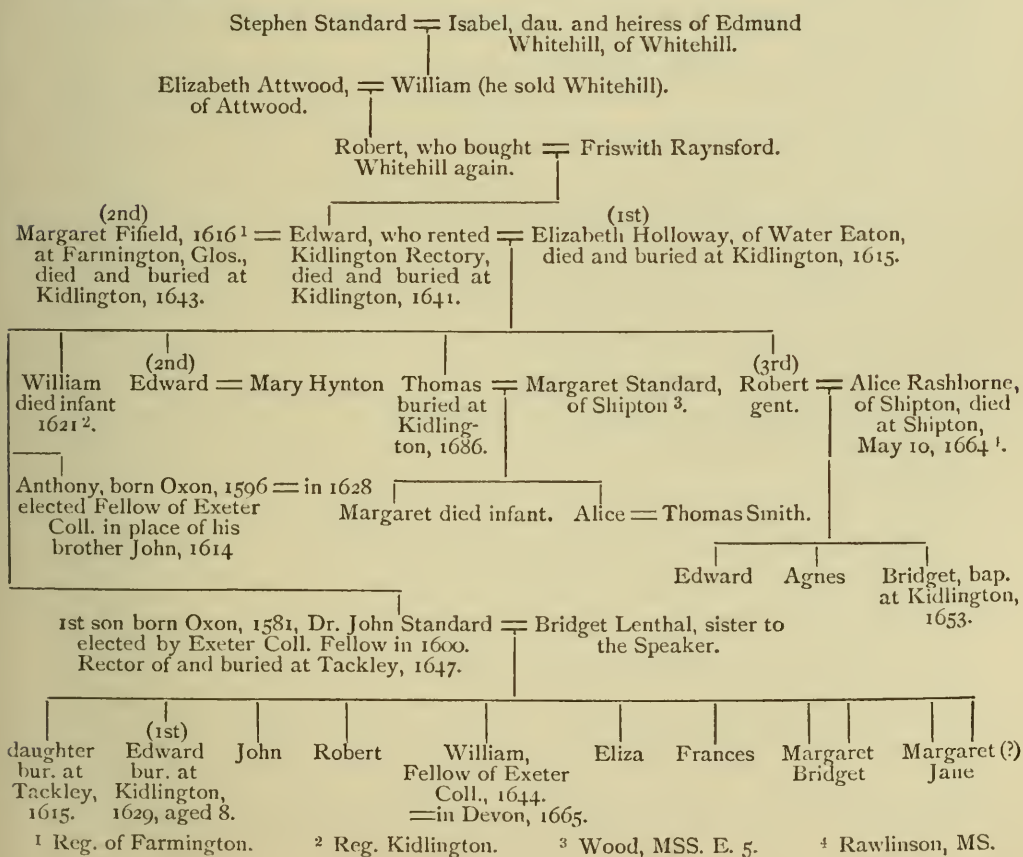
Drawn from the Harleian Coll., from the Parish register, and from tombstones.

ARMS.

1. *Standard*.—Quarterly, 1st and 4th vert, an arrow or, barbed and feathered argent; 2nd and 3rd gules, a lion rampant between three buckles argent (Harleian Visitation). The 2nd and 3rd in this coat, according to a tombstone in Woodstock church, stand for Whitehill (the lion at Woodstock is passant, see Marshall's Woodstock, p. 346).

2. *Standard and Fifield*.—Per pale, 1st Standard; and 2nd 'per pale three acorns counter-changed,' Fifield. Upon the tombstone of Ed. Standard in Kidlington church, 1641.

3. *Standard and Lenthal*.—Per pale, Standard; and 'quarterly 1st and 4th a bend lozengy, 2nd and 3rd per bend, three mullets cotised,' Lenthal. Upon the tombstone of Ed. Standard in Kidlington church, 1629.



¹ Reg. of Farmington.

² Reg. Kidlington.

³ Wood, MSS. E. 5.

⁴ Rawlinson, MS.

CHAPTER III.

Miscellaneous.

I.—A FEW FACTS RELATING TO THE CHURCH, FROM THE PARISH BOOKS.

THE account of the Rectory and Vicarage may appropriately be followed by a short statement of the management of the Parish Church drawn chiefly from the Church Wardens' and Vestry books.

The Church Wardens' account book dates from the year 1754, and begins with a list of articles belonging to the Church, written and signed by James Lamb, Town Church Warden, 2nd August.

1754. 'Received from Joseph Haines late C. W. the following particulars:

- 'One new Pall cloth, one Old.
- One silver flaggon.
- One silver cup and cover.
- One silver salver.
- A velvet Pulpit cloth and cushion.
- Two surplices. A Hood.
- One Table cloth and Napkin.
- A brass plate to collect money.
- A Bible and two Common Prayer Books.

Delivered the above particulars into the Clerk's care by the consent of the Vestry.'

1756-9. There is ample evidence of care bestowed upon the Church both by the Rector and the Vestry. During these years the Steeple was repaired at the cost of £12 1s., and the 'cock' for 10s. 9d., the same sum being expended upon whitewash. The gallery¹ at the west end was at that time erected, Mr. Gladwell's charity being spent upon it; painting and gilding it with suitable inscription costing £4 6s. 8d.

¹ See also chapter on Charities for at this time church warden. This W. Plaistow's money. John Dod was gallery was taken down in 1859.

The following is from the *Gentlemen's Magazine*, 1789, page 302, and refers to the so-called restorations:

'The church of Kidlington I am informed is now repairing and paving. The labourers have much demolished the remnants of antiquity in that fabric. Brass plates with effigies and inscriptions sufficient to cover a space of five feet by four, have been torn up. The painted glass is daily delapidating. An ancient stone coffin, which for many years lay under the eave droppings of the church, was during the late severe frost shattered to pieces.' J. Henn, Sulgrave, Northants¹.

In one of the parish account books some years later is a mention of the sale of old brass, perhaps that mentioned above. In Church Wardens' book, '1837, Received for old brass, 6*d*. per lb., 5*s*.'

1800. This year the Tenor or Sans bell was recast by Thos. Mears, of London, at the cost of £5 10*s*., and a glazier's bill was incurred of £19. The clock was bought in 1805 from one Fardon, who was paid seven guineas, probably for setting it up and regulating it. About the year 1810 the Steeple was struck by lightning, and a tender was put out for repairs. These were completed in two years' time at the cost of £90. Four years later extensive repairs were done upon the roof. New leading to the extent of £16, also the causey leading to the church was pitched. In 1828 Exeter College spent £200 on the Chancel, and £53 16*s*. on east window². In 1830 the church was repaired, and then it was that the carved benches were moved from the body of the church and placed in the present position in the choir.

1837. The platform for ringing the bells was erected in the Tower, previously they had been rung from the floor of the church. When all was finished the church was reopened for service, the sermon upon the occasion being preached by Archdeacon Clerke. No rate had been asked for the repewing, the cost being defrayed by private subscriptions. Repairs were again necessary in 1837, and work upon the Tower cost £30³.

1846. Ten years later the south Transept and Chancel demanded attention, Dr. Richards being then Rector. In a Vestry called to consider the matter it was resolved to raise the sum by rate of £260, the Rector and Curate charging themselves with all extra expenses.

¹ In Beesley's History of Banbury we find that Mr. J. Henn was assistant teacher at Sulgrave School in 1790, and in the same year removed to Aldridge in Staffordshire.

² Register, Boase, p. 128.

³ '1843. James Young, first child baptized in the restored font.' Parish Register.

1848. The church windows were broken by some disorderly people, and a fine of £3 was levied upon them for their unseemly conduct.

1853. About this time the waste land near the Pound was enclosed by the neighbouring owners, and the Rector and Vestry agreed to take in the patch next the churchyard, to cut down the trees, build a wall, and the Rector to pay the expenses of consecrating the new piece.

The following year we are reminded of the sufferings of our troops in the Crimea by a public prayer and fast ordered, and in 1856 the church bells proclaimed the Peace, the same year being worthily marked by the abandonment of the ringing on Guy Fawkes' day, the Ringers having an allowance made them at Easter instead.

1880. Again the fabric of the old church called for repairs, and now it was the south aisle which was in danger. The roof also of the nave was found to be much decayed, and was pronounced to be in an unsafe condition. The old chestnut beams were taken out and proved to be extensively decayed in the socket. The south wall was taken down to the ground and rebuilt.

INSCRIPTIONS UPON THE CHURCH BELLS IN 1813.

1. Richard Keene made me¹. 1661.
 2. Bartholomew Aston made me. 1621.
 3. William Cozier—Thos. Dawson, C.W. 1715.
 4. John Bull made me. 1610.
 5. John Saunders—John Springhall, C.W. 1700.
 6. Thomas Dawson—Richard Sampson, C.W. 1708.
- Sancte. Thos. Mears of London fecit. 1800.²

This list is taken from Dr. Symonds' MS. in possession of T. Davenport, Esq., County Office, Oxford.

The Lay Subsidies for the 15th and 16th Henry VIII for this Parish were respectively £7 6s. 0d. and £5 15s. 11d.³.

¹ Richard and James Keene carried on a bell-foundry in Woodstock sometime between the dates 1626 to 1681. They cast many bells for Oxford churches, and also for those in the neighbourhood.

See Marshall's Woodstock, p. 184.

² Thomas Mears was of Whitechapel, London, Stainbank Foundry.

³ Subsidy Rolls, Kydlyngton. Record Office.

II.—COATS OF ARMS IN THE CHURCH WINDOWS,

Taken from Anthony à Wood's MSS., E. 1, D. 14, B. 15.

'In east window of chancel':—

1. June 14, 1652. 'Gules, a fret of 3 pieces or,' in another place Wood has 'Gules, a fret or, within a bordure argent, charged with 8 fleurs-de-lys sable.' For *Audley*; see page 21.

2. 'Checky argent and sable' for *Elmerugge*; see page 23. This shield is now to be found in south window of chancel:—

3. 'Or, two bends azure'; for *d'Oiley*.

'In east window of chapel of south aisle' (Sydenham aisle).

1. 'Argent, 6 annulets gules, 3. 2. 1.' This coat is for *Plesssets*, and was repeated three times in this window. One of them is now in the south window of chancel.

2. 'Gules, a fesse between 6 crosses croset or.' *Beauchamp*; see *d'Oiley* pedigree.

3. 'Azure, 3 lioncelles rampant or.' This probably for *Sandford*; see *d'Oiley* pedigree. This shield is now in south window of chancel.

4. 'Or, two bars gules, with an annulet in chief.' This for *Maudit*; see *d'Oiley* pedigree.

5. 'Gules, 6 bezants, 3. 2. 1.' *Zouche*.

'In another of south aisles, where there is a door to come in' (Transept):—

1. 'Quarterly, 1st and 4th azure, a fesse between 3 leopards' faces or; 2nd and 3rd argent, a lion rampant or.' This shield is for *De la Pole*. It is now in the east window of chancel.

2. In south windows of the south aisle. 'Argent, a chief azure, over all a lion rampant or, tail-forked. *Burghwash*. Impaling azure, a fesse between three leopards' faces or.' *Pole*.

3. 'Argent, a saltire engrailed sable.' *Boutetort*. These arms impaling *Segrave* were in the church at Dorchester. Wood says that at the time of his visit there was still a portion of a wooden canopy over the altar in this aisle¹.

¹ In one account Wood says that these shields, Nos. 2 and 3, were in the south window of the Sydenham aisle.

‘In north aisle adjoining chancel’ (Conant’s aisle):—

1. ‘Gules, 2 lions passant argent.’ For *Le Strange*. This shield now in south window of chancel.

2. ‘Vairré, on a canton a garb argent banded or.’ *De la Beche*; see page 23.

3. ‘Checky argent and sable.’ *Elmerugge*.

4. ‘Chevron between 3 buckles (oval each charged with 4 roses). *Croxford*; see page 23.

5. ‘Argent, chevron between 3 buckles, as above, sable, impaling barré of 6 azure and argent.’

Under all at bottom of window is written ‘Orate pro aĩmbz *Hugonis Holcot*’ (*et*)¹.

‘In another north aisle where Thrup people bury’:—

1. ‘Quarterly azure, a fesse between 3 leopards’ faces or,’ and ‘argent a bend gules bearing 3 pairs of wings of the first.’ This is for *De la Pole* and *Wingfield*.

2. The same impaling, ‘Gules, 3 wheels or,’ *Roet* or *Chaucer*; see page 26 *note*.

3. ‘Argent, a chevron between 3 buckles charged with 4 roses sable, impaling barré of 8 (or 6) azure and argent.’ *Croxford* and *Grey*. On this window was written ‘Robert Croxford and Johanna his wife’; see page 25.

‘In an upper window of the body of the church these coats quartered’:—

1. ‘Azure, a fesse between 3 leopards’ faces or, argent, a chief gules, over all a lion rampant, tail forked or,’ for *Burghwash*; see page 28.

2. The same with a file of 3 points. Under which is written *Thomas Mawnfeld*.

Again:—

1. The same arms with the file.

¹ The name Holcot is written above this coat in Wood’s MS. Observe that the same bearings are said to belong to Croxford in following window. We are here probably treating with various agents, who are using their patron’s arms.

The Holcots were for many generations buried at Buckland. The above Hugh Holcot was no doubt agent in some manner to the Duke of Suffolk. The Holcot arms are Lozengy within a bordure. Wood, MS., D. 11.

2. 'Parted per fesse argent and sable counter-changed, a pike¹ embowed and a ram.' This is now in south window of chancel.

3. A shield or, charged with a Capital letter T within a knot of rope sable. Under these three was written '*Thomas Mawnfelde et Johanna uxor ejus.*' (This shield now in the east window.)

These were probably over the 'Jesus' altar in the nave. We know nothing of Thomas Mawnfelde. He possibly was agent to the Earls of Suffolk and to the Abbey.

'In other windows of church, some of which have been in the aisles and I think in the chancel.'

1. 'Sable, lion rampant argent crowned or, fleur-de-lys upon his shoulder.' *Segrave*; see d'Oiley Ped.

2. 'Or, fretty of 3 gules, on a chief sable 3 bezants.' *Verdon*; see Basset Ped.

3. 'Or, lion rampant sable.' *Hugo de Welles*, Bishop of Lincoln, 1209 to 1234.

4. 'Or, a bend cotised between 6 martlets sable.' *Beauchamp, Lord St. Amand*; see page 21 note.

5. 'Argent, creusilly fitché 3 fleurs-de-lys sable.' These are the arms of John de Bereford or Beresford, Mayor of Oxford, in the years 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, and 1354. The same coat appeared in the windows of Christ Church, of Carfax Church, and of Great Haseley Church. He gave to three of the Friaries in Oxford the sum of 13s. 4d. in the year of his death, 1361². His name was put upon the Bede roll of the City as a Benefactor, and he was buried with his wife in the Lady Chapel in All Saints church³.

6. 'Argent, bend lozengy or, 5 lozenges sable.' *Brandon?*

7. 'Argent, 2 bars nebulé sable,' for *Basset*; see page 10.

8. 'Argent, lion rampant sable.' *Stapleton*⁴.

9. 'Gules, 3 fleurs-de-lys or.' *Cantelupe*; see d'Oiley Ped.

10. 'Argent, on a bend sable 3 plates.' Under this last is written *Lawrence Trilowe* of Ames and his wyfe, mccccvi; see page 22.

11. In the next window was *Pole* and *Wingfield* impaling Roet or Chaucer.

¹ Wood calls this a 'dolphin,' but it is an unmistakeable *pike*. See p. 59.

² Wood, Clark, vol. 2, pp. 109, 177, 333, 440-462.

³ Turner's Oxford Records, p. 415.

⁴ The arms of Stapleton and Le

Strange may be accounted for by the neighbouring village of Middleton having belonged to Lady Le Strange, who married Sir Miles Stapleton of Bedale.

In the present east window are fragments of ancient glass, including two old shields; and two modern, 1st, the arms of Exeter College, '2 bends nebulé,' and 2nd, 'or, a chevron gules, within a bordure azure charged with mitres or,' not known.

In south window are 5 old shields and three modern, viz. Plessets, Le Strange, Elmerugge, Sandford and the Pike and Ram: Sir W. Petre; another, 'sable, a chevron between 3 garbs or,' for Field, probably the Bishop of Newfoundland who was once curate here; and the coat quarterly of Dr. Jones, Rector of Exeter College.

'These crests were in several windows' (Wood, E. 1.):—

1. A hand issuing out of a wreath, holding a ball or.
 2. A cap on a helmet argent.
 3. A wing issuing out of a cap on a helmet argent.
 4. A swan issuing out of a coronet or. (*Beauchamp.*)
 5. A pair of horns issuing out of a coronet or on a helmet.
 6. A pair of ram's horns or, issuing out of a cap argent.
 7. A swan's head and neck argent, issuing out of a coronet or on a helmet. (*Grey?*)
 8. A man's head armed argent. (*De la Pole.*)
 9. A lion passant guardant or crowned, on a cap argent. (*England or perhaps Howard.*)
 10. A talbot's head on a cap argent.
 11. An ass's head proper issuing out of a coronet argent. (*Chamberlayne.*)
 12. A pair of ram's horns or on a helmet.
 13. A stork or falcon or, standing on a cap argent, pecking the end of it.
 14. Two arms argent, issuing out of a coronet, holding a wreath or.
 15. A ram's horn or, on a cap with a helmet.
 16. A griffin's head or on a helmet. (*Elmerugge.*)
-

It is difficult to account for some of the above coats of arms, but the following remarks from one of Mr. Sheldon's note-books in the Wood collection may throw some light upon the matter. Speaking of the tomb of Alice Chaucer at Ewelme, he says:—

'For though Montacute had no children by her, yet she was mother-in-law to the great "Scourge-King," Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick and Sarum, one of whose daughters married George, Duke of Clarence, whose

arms are impaled on the Tomb to John Neville Marq. of Montacute, &c. These arms were placed on both sides of the Tomb to shew the greatness of the alliance of this Lady rather than her descent. This was the opinion of my learned and worthy friend, Mr. John Vincent, to whom I defer much in these cases.' Wood C-11. p. 64.

THE OLD STALLS IN THE CHURCH.

In the choir of the church are certain ancient stalls, ten in number, of plain oak, the mouldings and under sides of the 'Misereres' simply turned. In absence of any direct evidence these stalls are themselves sufficient proof of the presence of a certain number of Religious who here daily recited the Divine office. The kneeling stools are of much later date, and are for double the number of persons, one row in front of the other instead of being extended lengthwise. The panelling upon these 'stools' or benches is elaborate Perpendicular work with poppy heads at the ends. Each bench is divided into five panels, each panel bearing some appropriate subject referring to the place. Beginning on the south side at the west end we find—1st, a *Pike* swallowing a smaller fish; above it a wheel pattern. 2nd, a *Ram*, a *Pike*, a *Pheon* or lance head, a cushion bearing the monogram T within an O, surrounded by a knotted cord. The whole of this device is represented in the windows in old glass. The reading is probably as follows: The Pike represents the fisheries of Gosford; the Ram the sheep of Campsfield, the principal industries of the place, be it also remembered that the Rood Light was kept alive by the produce of fifteen sheep. The whole would stand as the arms of the Township. The monogram T and O, Thomas of Cudlington, Abbot of Osney? 3rd, a *Staff* with a bunch of flowers tied to it, on either side of it, a *Pitcher* and a *Tun*. A rebus upon the name Kidlington—viz. Old English, Kid, a pitcher; Ling, a besom; and Tun, a frequent pun for ton¹. This is valuable and curious as giving us the pronunciation of the name at the time. 4th, a very spirited representation of a *Dog*, perhaps taken with the ram completing the idea of the sheep farm. 5th, a *Pelican* in 'Her Piety,' a frequent emblem of the Blessed Sacrament. 6th, an heraldic '*Carbuncle*,' with an ornamental panel above. 7th, a large, well executed *Rose*, with ornamental work above. Certain land at Thrup was held from the Abbey by the payment of a rose. The three remaining panels

¹ See frontispiece.

are the Monogram of the Blessed Virgin MR, and two ornamental designs. Upon the north side beginning at the east end are 1st and 3rd, ornamental panelling. 2nd, a shield bearing T and O as in No. 2 on the other side. 4th, a shield bearing five hearts thus: From the centre one a flame issuing, the four others pierced by nails.—Doubtless the five wounds of our Saviour, and probably the arms of some Abbot. 5th, the lily growing out of a vase for Our Lady's Salutation. 6th, I. H. S., and the remaining four conventional patterns.

III.—SECULAR AFFAIRS IN KIDLINGTON IN THE REIGN OF ELIZABETH.

After the review we have made of church matters it is time to return to secular affairs in the Parish after the old order of society had passed away. The account of the breaking up of the Manor we leave to a separate chapter. The following notices have been gleaned from various sources:

1593. A period of sickness and distress came upon the people about the thirty-fifth year of Queen Elizabeth, which called forth the charity of the neighbouring districts. The City Council in Oxford ordered a collection to be made throughout the City, and took effectual measures to ensure contributions.

'It was agreed that the church wardens in everie parish of the City and Suburbs therof shall collect and further suche somes of money as everie person within their several parishes shall be willinge to give. To be employed towards the poore of Kidlington in this time of visitation and sicknesse, at the discretion of Mr. May, s^r. The said church wardens delivering uppe with the same money a bill in writing as well of everie person that shall give any contribution as also those that refuse to give.' 15th Maye, 1593¹.

Owing to this distress of poverty the people were restless and discontented, and moreover, exasperated by the enclosures made all around them by the new gentry lately settled upon the ancient Abbey lands.

1596. The synopsis of a trial which took place will be read with interest in connection with this matter. A rising of the people with a view to pillage the county gentlemen's houses had been planned by some restless spirits urged on by the general distress of the time.

¹ Turner's Coll. Oxon MSS., c. 54, p. 130.

‘Rycote, Dec. 14th.

‘Henry Lord Norris, to Sir Will. Knollys, Comptroller of the Household.

‘I send you a letter from Sir William Spencer (of Yarnton) with examinations concerning an intended rising of the people in Oxon. I want the Council’s commands and order to be taken about enclosures on the western part of the shire, where the stir began, and that the poor may be able to live. . . . There was a rising planned at Enslow Hill, and 200 or 300 seditious people . . . Bartholomew Steere of Hampton Poyle (came to Lord Norris), Roger Ibill, miller, of Hampton Gay . . . said there would be such a rising as had not been seen a great while, and the meeting would be at Campsfield Green . . . told Roger Symonds, carpenter, of Hampton Gay, that he need not work this dear year for his living, for there would be a merry world shortly, and to encourage him, told him 100 men were coming from Witney to meet others at Enslow Heath, and they meant to spoil the houses of Mr. Power of Blachendon, Mr. Berry of Hampton Gay, Mr. Rathbone of Shipton, Mr. Fryer of Water Eaton, Mr. Whitton, Sir Henry Lee, and Sir Will. Spenser; and said they would cut off all the gentry’s heads. John Harcourt, Gent., of Cogges and Mr. Pudsay of Elsfield were accused of offering to be the leaders. Edward Hoffer of Kidlington, a very dangerous fellow, met Richard Bradshaw near Bicester and when they were come near to Mr. Power’s hedges they wished the hedges and they who made them in the ditches, and asked if there were not 100 good men who would rise and knock down the gentlemen and rich men who made corn so dear, and who took the commons—Mr. Power had enclosed the commons and Mr. Fryer had destroyed the whole town of Water Eaton—their opinion will hardly be discovered unless it be on the rack, which they are likely to taste of¹ . . .’

1535. The following is interesting as giving us some insight into the license existing after the suppression of the Monasteries, how a thief found a convenient disguise in a monk’s garb, and how he took refuge at Kidlington at the ‘Six Bells².’ Curiously enough this impostor ‘Abbot Salisbury,’ is referred to as being in the Tower, in Ainsworth’s ‘Tower of London.’

Sir Walter Stonore to Cromwell.

‘I haue to aduertice you of certain ill disposed persons lately in Oxford of whom I am informed by Robt. Hall, who was taken at Thame for making money and sent to Oxford gaol by Sir John Dawnse.

¹ Cal. State papers, Domestic, Elizabeth 1595 to 1597, pp. 316 and 343. Council to examine prisoners.

² The old public house of the ‘Six Bells’ stood upon the site of Edmonds’ house, behind Mrs. Rand’s house, and

nearly opposite to the present house of the sign. Mrs. Rand told me this, the property had belonged to her husband. This house called after the famous Osney Bells.

He stated he would betray a great nest of thieves. On receipt of his letter (enclosed) I sent to Oxford to take "the seyde abbot" and others who has fled to London.

The Abbot is abbot of Vale crosse (Valle Crucis at Llangollen) in Wales and is a white monk named Sallysbere.'

[The enclosure.]

Robert Hall Goldsmith to Sir Walter Stonore.

'This is the truth of the robbery of Hamlynton. The thieves were my Lord Abbot named Salbere, Will Pegot, his servant, Master Jonys, James Whelar, Perys Field, and Robert Hale, Goldsmith.

The Abbot is at White Friars of Horforte (Oxford) or else at the Bellys, Kedlenton, for he is "great with him." Whateure they took the Abbot and Master Jonys had all, and none of us had one penny¹.'

'An Inquisition Post Mortem of lands, &c., in the Manors of Kidlington and Chakendon, co. Oxon: parcel of the possession of the late John Kete².'

'One Anne Cottysford of Launton made her last will and testament the 24 Nov., 1634, and thereby gave to her son-in-law, William Savage of Kidlington, £5 in three years after her death³.'

Privy seals, &c., Chancery, 5 Charles I.

'John Heathe, son of Richard. 20 April, 4 Ch. I.
Livery of lands in Kidlington. 20 Nov., 7 Dec.'

The name of Heathe occurs in the parish Register from 1574.

From Visitation, 1566 to 1574. Harleian Society, vol. 5.

Geoffrey Raveninge = Margaret, daughter and heiress of Richard Chaury,
Lord Mayor of London.

Robert Raveninge, = Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of
of Cudlington Reginald Page.
upon the Green.
William Raveninge, of Oxon, gent.,
only son and heir.

'William Raveninge was Town Clerk of Oxford in 1569⁴.'

There is no further information about this family in Kidlington.

'John Dison of Kidlington disclaimed as no Gentleman⁵.'

¹ Cal. State papers, Hen. VIII. vol. 8, p. 295.

² Cal. State papers, Domestic, 1547-80, p. 404.

³ Turner's Coll. Oxon, Wills, vol. 6, c. 47, p. 163.

⁴ Turner's Records of the City. Mr.

Raveninge's name is included in a list of those who died from the infection at the Black Assize in 1577. Wood, Clark, vol. 1, p. 269.

⁵ Turner's MS. Coll. Oxford, vol. 18; idem, Visitations.

From Proceedings in Chancery, Eliz. K. k. 2.

‘Plaintiff, Thomas Kente—Defendant, Nicholas Kente.

For performance of promise on marriage. Premises and land held of the Manor of Kidlington on the Green by Plaintiff’s father, the Defendant.’

Thomas Kente declares that his father had promised him half of his farming goods and one and a half yard lands upon condition of his marriage with Margaret Teasler, of Hampton Poyle, and although the marriage had been solemnized in Kidlington Church he withheld the goods and cattle. The father deposed that he was willing to give his son half of his goods upon condition of his paying half the rent of certain lands called ‘Lotten and pryce’s’ lands.

Some of the land held by Kente came into the possession of Madame Conant, and is that portion which lies between the Moors’ Road and the Church. The ‘Lotten’ land was probably the meadow by the river side.

‘Inventory of Deeds,’ vol. 2.

Court of Wards and Liveries.

15th Elizabeth, John Maunde, 13–15, Kidlington, 2. 3. 7. 9, and box 28 b.

15th James I, John Fettiplace 2, Kedlington, 1, 2. 3. 14, box 28 a.

Depositions taken in the Bishop’s Court, 1589, July 26th¹.

‘Answers of Robert Maye of Kidlington in a cause against him by Thomas Tysdale, farmer of the Tithes of the Rectory of Kidlington.

Witnesses—Christopher Atkins of Kidlington, aged 85.

John Weale, alias Humphries, of Islip, aged 50.

John Hughes of Kidlington, aged 37.

In this case a field in Kidlington is called “Saltstrete,” and a furlong called “Durthill Furlong.”

Robert Maye’s name is here spelt Mayowe on one occasion.

From Proceedings in Chancery, Eliz. M. m. 14.

‘Plaintiff, Martin Maye—Defendants, Robert Maye and William Maunde. Claim under a deed of settlement: Two messuages and land in Kidlington, late estate of Robert Maye, Plaintiff’s father, and by him settled to divers uses.’

The Plaintiff and Defendant in this Case were brothers, sons of Robert Maye, who in the thirty-seventh year of Elizabeth, made a Deed of settlement upon his second son Martin of his estate of two Tenements and one yard land. Martin says that his brother Robert aided by his cousin William Maunde had obtained possession of the

¹ Turner MS., Top. Oxon, vol. 15, c. 56, Bodleian Library.

Deed and molested him in the quiet enjoyment of his farm. Robert denies the accusation and declares that no such Deed existed. James Kidder, Gent., is mentioned as being a Tenant upon the land.

Robert Maye the Elder died 1597 (Parish Reg.).

From Proceedings in Chancery, Eliz. D. d. 4. A.D. 1593.

'Plaintiff, Anne Dod, widow and executrix of John Dod, junior, deceased—Defendants, Elizabeth and Richard Dod. Bill to establish rights to emblements: Messuages and land in Kidlington, held of the Manor of Kidlington, settled on Plaintiff's marriage by John Dod, elder, deceased.'

The initials J. A. D. are still to be seen upon a beam of the barn of the 'Manor Farm' where the Dods lived¹.

Extract from the will of Thomas Hambleton, of Kidlington. (Bodleian. Rawlinson, c. 121, p. 134.)

'I, Thomas Hambleton of the parish of St. Peter's Chains (ad Vincula) in the Tower of London, Taylor, being sicke in bodie but of good and pfect minde and memorie. . . . Item, I will that my loving wife Marrie Hambleton shall have, &c., my lands tenements, &c., as well freehold as copyhold, sett, lyinge and beinge in the parish of Kedlington in the countie of Oxford, &c., so long as she shall remaine a widdowe, &c., and I give to my sonne George Hambleton and his heires after the descease of my said wiefe all, &c., in the occupation of Andrew Fletcher, Provided that he doe pay to my daughter Alice the summe of 20 markes; I give and bequeathe to my sonne Robert Hambleton all those, &c., now or late in occupation of Thomas Batcheler on condition that he shall pay to my daughter Maudlin the somme of 20 markes; Provided that if my sons George and Robert refuse to pay the 40 markes then I will that all and every my saide lands, &c., to them before given, to my daughters Alice and Maudlin equally between them, they paying to either of my sons George and Robert the 20 markes. Item, I give to my son William Hambleton ymediately after the demise of my wife² or intermarriage all, &c., every, &c., lying in Kidlington. Item, I give to my son Thomas Hambleton³ the lease of my now dwelling house in St. Peter's ad Vincula on condition he doe permitt my saide wiefe to hould and enjoie the same during his life. Item, I give my sonne Thomas my Bible and my ring. I appoint my wife sole executrix and my loving Ralph Flavell and my loving brother John Hambleton my overseers, &c., &c.' Dated 27 Oct. 1609.

¹ This was theirs by copyhold, as may be seen in the above Chancery Deed and held by them from Mistress Gadburie. No. 105 on the map.

² 'Goodwyffe Hambleton buried 20

Aug. 1602.' Parish Register.

³ 'Thomas Hambleton of Lambeth, Surrey, and Mary Turner of Holywell, Oxford, married 22 June, 1741-2.' Register of Mag. Coll.: Bloxam.

Calendar of State papers, Domestic, Vol. 1638-9, page 224. 14 Charles I.

'Certified copy of the will of William Tempest the elder made Aug. 9, 1627, but apparently in question in Trinity Term, 1638. He mentions his wife, his son Robert, Thomas the lawyer, Andrew and William, and his daughter Elizabeth, and his cousins Robert Tempest and George Vaughan; and he bequeaths his farms at Norton, Kidlington, and Somerton.'

We have no further notice of Tempest in Kidlington.

Mr. Blomfield, Deanery of Bicester, pt. 4, p. 128, Somerton, has this same extract, and also

'Willmus. Tempest gener sepultus fuit, 29 June, 1630.'

'Elizabetha Tempest vidua sepult. 10 March same year.'

Dr. Blomfield in a note connects this family with Tempest of Broughton, and says the Somerton registers were taken up to London as evidence in a case before the House of Lords concerning a peerage.

In the 'Yarnton Drawer' in Muniment room at Exeter College is a Deed signed 'Tempest,' perhaps belonging to these.

From Royalist Composition papers, 2nd series, vol. 36, p. 917, Public Record Office.

James Pitts, of Kidlington, Gentleman.

'His delinquency that he was in armes against the Parliament before the surrender of Oxford. He petitions here the 13th May, 1649, and saith he was never sequestrated nor discovered nor had any estate till he married his wife. He compounds upon a Particular delivered under his hands, by which he doth submit to such Fine as doth appear. That he is possessed of a Personal Estate which he hath by his wife in goods and money to the value of £220 and saith he doth first discover the same and prayeth benefit, &c.'

Fine on his own discovery, £11.

'I doe affirme I am noe Popish Recusant, nor Popish affected, nor councellor, nor Attorney, nor belong to any College or Hall.'

We have no further notice of this James Pitts.

From the same, vol. 22, p. 19.

'Peter Langstone of the City of Oxford, Gent.

'His delinquency that he remained in Oxford at the time it was a Garrison holden for the King and was then in arms against the Parliament and is to have the benefit of the Articles as by Sir Thomas Fairfax certificate 22nd January, 1646. Interest remaining of 99 years in two messuages and yard-lands in Kidlington worth since the troubles £28¹.'

¹ See Thrup.

CHAPTER IV.

KIDLINGTON DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

KIDLINGTON had its full share in the trouble which came upon the country by the quarrel of King Charles with his Parliament, and by its nearness to Oxford was open to all the military manœuvres which were carried on upon the north side of the City.

1640. This year William Lenthall, Esq., and Robert Pye, Knt., were Members of Parliament for Woodstock. In the next year the Parliament at Westminster, in their newly awakened zeal for the purity of religion, issued an ordinance requiring all persons who would be thought well affected towards the Gospel to make a Protestation to that effect. The 'Protestation' begins thus:

'I, A. B. in presence of God . . . promise, vow, and Protest . . . to defend the true Church of England . . .¹'

1641. This was required to be signed in all the counties of England, and a list of names of those who refused thus to sign themselves 'Protestants' was forwarded to head-quarters. Some such were found in Kidlington. We know that many here were attached to the King, and as such, irrespective of religious considerations, would refuse to sign the enactments of a rebel Parliament.

1642. The Rector, Dr. Prideaux, at this time was Vice-Chancellor of the University, and in that capacity presided over the meeting of Convocation which considered the King's petition sent to them from York, 'that they would help him against his enemies².' The appeal was met by unanimous consent, and the whole of the money which was then in the public chest, which only amounted to £860, was voted to the King's use. Many of the Colleges also offered their plate.

¹ 5th Report of Royal Commissioners
of Hist. MSS., pp. 3 and 130.

² Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*,
pt. 1, p. 123.

Charles raised his standard at Nottingham in August of this year, and in October the battle of Edgehill was fought with doubtful result.

The King at once marched to Woodstock and on to Oxford, where he spent the winter. The whole country was now aroused; the first sight and sound of war had startled the people of Kidlington one Saturday night in September. A troop of Cavaliers¹ about 140 in number rode through our parish between eleven and twelve o'clock at night. They belonged to Prince Rupert's forces which were then at Brackley, and were evidently expected by their friends in Oxford, according to the old account

'the schollars and other malignants went not to bed, expecting their coming.'

The Mayor, good man, had retired, but it is remarked

'he thought it no disturbance to rise at once and to welcome these guests, and to bestow upon them wine very liberally.'

The King spent the whole winter in Oxford, and to supply himself and his army with provisions he issued the following Proclamation, which seriously affected all the neighbourhood and added a scarcity of provisions to the distress of the time.

A Proclamation from his Majesty, 15th April, 20th of his reign, at Oxford.

'These are straightly to charge and command all who are owners of corn, grain, and other victuals that for the better furnishing of the City against a time of need, they store themselves with all kinds of provisions for their family and what charge they have for six months. And for that it have appeared that the Inhabitants thereabouts have been very negligent in bringing provisions into this City, it is also commanded and required that all such persons who have either Corn or Victuals, which live within 7 miles of Oxford, shall bring in or cause to be brought in, all such corn of all sorts, ready threshed or in the straw, and all such other victuals serving for the food of man or horse, here to be stored up for themselves or sold at and for reasonable prices; And also that you bring in all such Corn, Hay, Straw, as you have. And all such of you as shall not give obedience hereunto, or hinder or conceal the same are to be esteemed as persons ill affected, according to his Majesty's said Proclamation in this behalfe, and must expect that the Souldiers should fetch so much away as they can and the rest consume and destroy².'

The Parliamentary party were also alive to their own interest, and by an ordinance in Parliament the county of Oxford was assessed at

¹ Sept. 7, 1642. King's Pamphlets in British Museum, vol. 72.

² King's Pamphlets, vol. 232.

the rate of £400 a week for two months, beginning upon the 3rd August¹, 1643.

1643. 28th August. Both Houses of Parliament passed an ordinance for the demolishing and removing all monuments of idolatry and superstition from all churches and chapels in England and Wales².

In *Mercurius Civicus*, a paper upon the Parliamentary side, we read :

1643. 'In Oxford they are all distracted by reason of the late defeat at Newbury given to the Cavaliers, insomuch that they know not whatever designs to put in execution. They have set up a new magazine without Norgate only for Bowes and Arrowes and that all Bowyers, Fletchers, and Arrowhead makers that they can possibly get they employ there³.'

1644. In April this year a party of the Roundhead troops took Blechingdon House with all its ammunition, but they do not seem to have advanced further. The Earl of Essex and Sir William Waller with their respective armies drew towards Oxford from the other side of the Thames. Abingdon was held by the King's men, but from some fatality it was evacuated in May, and without delay Essex threw himself into the town and very speedily got his men across the river at Sandford Ferry, and brought them all up through Littlemore and Cowley to parade upon Bullingdon Green. Here he displayed his force and braved the King and the City by coming up within shot of the Gates. A few light skirmishes passed between the two parties without hurt to either side, while the King looked down upon the strange scene from Magdalen Tower. Upon the morning of May 29th Essex drew off his army and proceeded to Islip and Blechingdon, hoping to cross the river Cherwell at Gosford. Here, however, he met with a check. Sir Jacob Astley with some regiments of musketeers was ready to receive him, and the pass was protected by a redoubt and earthworks thrown up against the enemy's horse. The first assault was repulsed, but the next day Essex brought up cannon to the attack, and for three days the attempt was repeated. Once indeed some horse got across the river, and met with so vigorous a charge by the pike men, in whose front ranks were many gentlemen volunteers, that they were beaten back and pursued far up the opposite slope. Sir Jacob Astley pursued his success and beat the enemy from Ainslow Bridge and Tackley Ford. However, all his gallantry and

¹ King's Pamphlets, vol. 120.

² Perfect Diurnall.

³ King's Pamphlets, vol. 126, 'Mercurius Civicus, 26 Sept. 1643.

skill were thrown away, for after the third day of fighting the King determined to withdraw from Oxford. In pursuance of this design on the 3rd June he made a feint to retake Abingdon, and called in all his horse from Woodstock in the night (whither he had led them the day before), and all his foot from the passes of both rivers at Ensham and at Gosford. The two generals at once occupied respectively Kidlington and Ensham, and awoke on the morning of the 4th of June to find that the King had run the gauntlet of both armies and made his way to Burford and Bourton-on-the-Water¹. Looking from his quarters, 4th June, 1644, at Blechingdon, Essex, seeing the flag still flying over Oxford, supposed the King to be still within his grasp², but presently receiving information from Ensham of the departure of the Royal army³, Essex, who had lost many men at Gosford and many by desertion, joined Waller, and the two generals marched together in pursuit of the King as far as Evesham in Worcestershire, where they parted to pursue different ways. The siege of Sudeley Castle followed, in which Sir William Morton so gallantly distinguished himself.

On the 24th June the King was again in this neighbourhood ; 'from Witney he marched to Woodstock playne, where the rendezvous was, on foot, with the Queen's Regiment and officers, in all 6000⁴.'

After several months' marching and countermarching through the western counties the King returned to Oxford for the winter upon the 1st of November.

1645. In May of this year Colonel Fairfax appeared before the town and took up his quarters at Marston: Godstow House was abandoned by the Royalist troops and burnt; Gaunt House, near Standlake, surrendered to the Parliament, and Cromwell gained some advantage at Islip and settled himself at Wytham and Colonel Brown at Wolvercote. Thus surrounded by a girdle of the Parliamentary troops, Kidlington lay at their mercy until June, when the King from Daintree sent a detachment of his own men and relieved Oxford, following himself and remaining in Oxford, at Christ Church, for a few days⁵. The bridge at Islip was destroyed by Fairfax after his with-

¹ For the account of this night march see History of Yarnton.

² Clarendon, History of the Rebellion, vol. 4, ed. 1826.

³ 'In June the Earl of Essex marched from Islip to Woodstock, from Woodstock to Chipping Norton.' Symonds,

Iter, as below.

⁴ Symonds 'Marches of Royal Army.' Camden Soc., p. 18.

⁵ The King's marches, according to date, are from 'Iter Carolinum,' in Bodleian Library.

drawal, but the garrison at Gaunt House remained, and in October the following circumstance is recorded, which we may well call the second battle of Kidlington :

1645. 'From our Garrison of Gaunt House, 8 miles from Oxford, it was certified that the Governor, Colonel Moore, being abroad with about 200 Horse on Friday last, met with about 500 of the Enemy at Kidlington, three miles from Oxford, and skirmished with them three hours, and at last put them to the rout and pursued them to the Gates of Oxford. Took prisoners, Master Sackville, the Earl of Dorset's second son, Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, one of the King's pages, Prince Rupert's chaplain, one gunner, one trumpeter, and 20 common soldiers¹.'

The Master Sackville mentioned here was husband to the Baroness Norreys. He was taken to Chawley, near Abingdon, and there treacherously stabbed by a soldier ; his body was carried to Wytham for burial².

In November the King was again in Oxford 'during pleasure.' In a Commonwealth paper we read :

'That it is reported that his Majesty came on Tuesday night to Daintree with 300 horse, where the Earl of Northampton came to him with 300 more, which conducted him to Banbury on Wednesday night, whence they report he went to Oxford.'

The expression used in the King's Itinerary upon each return to Oxford 'at pleasure' reads like a mournful irony when it is remembered of what nature were his pleasures during this sad time. Harassed and vacillating between his wish for the good of the people and his wayward advisers, Charles at length took the unfortunate resolution of casting himself upon the chivalry of the Scotch. With only two companions, Dr. Hudson being one, he left Oxford privately upon the night of 27th April, 1646.

1646. Kidlington was again occupied by Roundheads in February of this year³, this time they belonged to Waller's army, which had the reputation of being much more 'ungentlemanly and barbarous⁴' than Essex's men. Kidlington had ample experience of both armies, and might perhaps corroborate the truth of this statement. Waller and Ireton took Woodstock in April, and quartered themselves in the Manor House. How they were frightened out of their lodgings there is told us in a humorous ballad entitled 'The Devil of Woodstock.'

¹ Perfect Diurnall, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 1645.

² Dunkin's Bullindoon and Ploughley, vol. 1, p. 113.

³ 'Colonel Fleetwood, we under-

stand, has blocked up all the passes by Woodstock side, which much straitened Oxford.' Perfect Diurnall, No. 141, Feb. 22, 1646.

⁴ Clarendon, vol. 4.

‘Oxford surrendered to the Parliament upon Midsummer Day, and a few days later the shops were reopened and all had the benefit of a full and quiet market from the country, without any disturbance from the soldiers, who took nothing but what they paid for, a favour they had seldom met with before the surrender; which makes the Citizens exceeding glad that they have so happy a change, from penurie to plenty, from thraldom to liberty¹.’

A victim to his conscience during these terrible times was John Gregory, M.A., a Prebendary of Bracklesham.

Owing to the Rebellion he was reduced to poverty, and retired to an obscure alehouse upon Kidlington Green, where he died towards the middle of March, 1646. His days were spent in study, and it is said ‘that his candle was not put out for eleven years,’ he spending his nights with his books. After his death his friends came forward and procured him an honourable burial in the Cathedral at Oxford. He was aged thirty-nine².

The Rector, Dr. John Prideaux, also felt the pressure of the times. From being chaplain at court he was made Bishop of Worcester, ‘but made little or no profit from it.’ After being constrained by poverty to the sale of his goods he answered a friend’s salutation by saying, ‘I never did better in my life, only I have too great an appetite; for I have eaten that little plate that the Sequestration left me; I have eaten a great library of books; I have eaten a great deal of linen; much of my brass, some of my pewter, and now I am come to eat iron, and what will come next I know not.’ He died in the house of his son-in-law, Dr. H. Sutton, at Bredon, co. Worcester, leaving his children no legacy ‘but pious living, God’s blessing, and a father’s prayers³,’ July, 1650.

¹ King’s Pamphlets. ‘The City surrendered 24 June; marched out by Maudlin Bridge; a very rainy day.’ 1646. ‘Mercurius Civicus.’

² Gutch, vol. 3, p. 510, Colleges and Halls.

³ Walker’s Sufferings of the Clergy, pt. 2, pp. 14 and 78.

CHAPTER V.

I.—THE MANOR OF KIDLINGTON FROM THE DEATH OF CHARLES BRANDON, DUKE OF SUFFOLK.

THE Duke of Suffolk died in 1545, and the next year a Deed was signed at Westminster transferring the Manor of Cudlington to private hands, and leading to the division of the property into several various parcels.

The family of Chamberlayne had long been Stewards and Bailiffs of Woodstock, and in 1532 Leonard Chamberlayne was appointed to act with Sir Edward as Bailiff of the Manor of Cudlington. In the 30th year of Henry VIII (21st Oct. 1546) Leonard Chamberlayne and John Blundell purchased the Manor jointly, with several other properties. We hear no more of Chamberlayne after this, and the whole subsequent history centres in John Blundell and his coheiresses.

These are the terms of the sale :

‘The 4th part of a Patent of the year 38th of Henry 8th for Leonard Chamberlayne and John Blundell and their heirs.

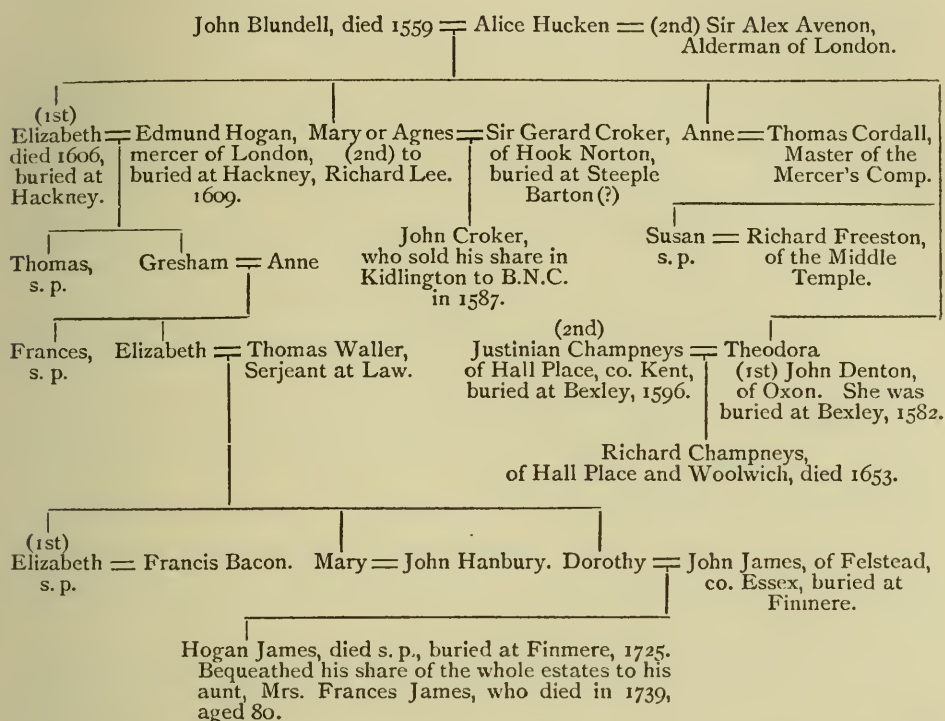
‘Know that We for the sum of £1760 1*s.* 0*d.* of lawful money of England into the hands of Our Court of Augmentation, by Leonard Chamberlayne of Sherborne, Esqr., and John Blundell, Mercer of London, paid, have given and granted all that our manor of Cudlyngton with all and singular its rights, members, appurtenances whatsoever late parcel of the lands of Charles, late Duke of Suffolk, and by Us lately acquired of the said Duke ; and all and singular (here follow all the privileges and manorial rights) situate in Cudlyngton . . . to have and to hold and enjoy the said manor to hold of Us our heirs and successors “in capite,” by the service of the 40th part of one Knight’s Fee, and rendering annually to Us and our heirs 5*s.* 2*d.* lawful money of England.

‘Witness by the King himself at Westminster 21st Oct.¹’

¹ This copy included all the other properties sold at the same time. It was made (from the original grant) in 1817,

and was in the office of Henry Churchill of Deddington ; printed in appendix of Mr. Marshall’s History of Sandford.

John Blundell died in 1559 and is buried in Great (Steeple) Barton church, where his monument used to be seen bearing the arms of the Mercers' Company¹. His five daughters inherited his large estates in five undivided parts.



John Blundell, by his will made in the first year of Elizabeth, devised all his property to Alice his wife for life, and after her death to his five daughters with remainder to his heirs. He died the same year, seized of the Manors of Great Barton, Finnere, Cudlyngton, and others. The rents from these estates were received by a Steward, one Sampson Morrey², and divided amongst the daughters, but sixteen years later three of the sisters, Elizabeth Hogan, Mary Croker, and Theodora Champneys, with their husbands, joined to effect a settlement of a fifth part upon their issue. The following year the mother, Alice Blundell, died, and shortly after Richard Freeston, the husband of Susan Blundell, filed a petition in Chancery showing that the five sisters were in reason and equity entitled each to take a fifth part in the rents, and that the Bailiff appointed by them three years before had secretly paid over the moneys to some of them, so that he knows

¹ His own arms were : a chevron between three eagles displayed, impaling a castle. Rawlinson, MS. 397.

² Sampson Morrey married twice in Kidlington.

not what sum to charge them in an action of Accompt to be brought at the Common Law ;

‘may it therefore please your Lordship to grant the writ of subpoena to be directed unto the said Defendants, Edmond Hogan, &c., and their Steward, commanding them personally to appear before the Court of Chancery.’

To this the Defendants replied denying all the charges against them and stating that, as the Complainant Freeston had two suits of partition depending against the Defendants at the Common Law, therefore he had no right to any portion of the rents. Finally the partition was made amongst the five. The son of Mary Croker had sold his portion in Kidlington to Brasenose College in 1587: Theodora Champneys left a son, Richard, who sold his part of Finmere in 44th Eliz. to Thos. Temple, and in 1616 his portion of the other estates and his reversion, after the deaths of S. Freeston and Anne Cordall¹, to Gresham Hogan. Eventually this brought four parts out of five into the possession of one family, James of Finmere. Mr. Hogan James² by his last will left the whole of his estates to his aunt, Mrs. Frances James; she lived until 1739, having bequeathed it to Nathaniel Bacon, from whom in 1746 it devolved to Edward Bacon, Esq., who sold the Finmere portion to Lord Temple³.

This partition of the Manor accounts for the tradition in Kidlington that there were four Manors with their appurtenances, as the manorial rights were carried with each portion. Dr. Rawlinson, writing about the year 1720, says,

‘the Lords of the Manor of Kidlington are Dr. Conant, Mr. Man, Madame Smith, and . . . James, Esqr.,’

apparently excluding the fifth portion, that purchased by Brasenose College.

THE PROPERTY OF BRASENOSE COLLEGE IN KIDLINGTON.

In the *Valor ecclesiasticus* is mentioned under the head of Brasenose in Diocese Lincoln, the following entry⁴.

¹ Both said to have died without issue, but one pedigree gives several children to Anne Cordall.

² Will of Hogan James in Probate Office, Somerset House.

³ The above account taken from Proceedings in Chancery, fols. 8-9, Freeston v. Hogan and others, in

the Record Office; also from Marshall's History of Sandford and Westcot Barton, and Dr. Blomfield's History of Finmere, Herald and Genealogist, No. 6, 1871, and Genealogist, New Series, vol. 2, 1885.

⁴ *Valor ecclesiasticus*, vol. 2, pp. 221 and 271.

'Lands and tenements in Cudlyngton	. £ ^o 34 8
Total	£6 5 8
Of which due to the Duke of Suffolk—	
Resolut' ut duci Suffoc' pro reddit quieto	
exeut de eijsd' terr'	. . . o o 8
Et remanet clare	. . . 6 5 o'

'Rents belonging to the Abbey by several persons denied and withheld—

'Cudlington—The tithe of the rent of the Principal and Fellows of Brasenose College for certain lands in Cudlington; reserving the right of the said monastery. Nothing is charged here because it is denied and has been by the Principal and Fellows and their Predecessors for many years past. Nil.'

This property is to all appearance the old house by the Mill with its moated garden still in the possession of the College.

1587. About fifty years later the College purchased one-fifth part of the manor of Kidlington from John Croker to whom it had fallen as his mother's share of the estates of John Blundell her father. The terms of the sale are as follows¹:

'27 Jan., 1587. John Croker or Crocker of Steeple Barton, Michael Dormer of Hampton Poyle, Edward Hawthth of the Lee, John Bonner of Swarford and John Bonner his son and heir, grant for £400 to Brasenose College the fifth part in Fee of the Manor of Kidlington; which was allotted and assigned to Sir Gerard Croker and Dame Mary his wife, deceased (one of the daughters of John Blundell, Esq., deceased) all the messuages or tenements and 2 yard-lands and the close called Bentley, a close called Garrols'², Bury More, now in the occupation of John Gurwyn, Nicholas Kente, Richard Hambleton, Robert Maye, Richard Auger, Alexander Crossley, Francis Lovatt, and Springwell, and all the Manorial rights. 29th Elizabeth. The College seal attatched.'

This land is said to be known as Cook's and Dyer's land³.

The leases for the house by the Mill date from 21st Elizabeth, the first being to Robert Milward, Yeoman, of Stanton, in parish of Whitesford, co. Warwick; James Saunders; Francis Saunders; Blake-man; 1653, Robert Prideaux; 1666, Richard Newman (Bond signed by Finmore and Almont); 1729, Joseph Haines. This last name localises the place, as that house is still known as 'Haines' Corner.'

¹ Deed in Archives of Brasenose College.

² The same as Bladon Close, No. 200 on the map.

³ This land must have extended

towards Woodstock over Campsfield. The name of Springwell certifies this as that family were in possession of Hardwick, a part lying out there.

At the time of the 'Enclosure' Cooper and Long of Yarnton rented the land, and Mrs. Anne Walker occupied the house, and in 1852 Mr. Warland's term of lease began.

Another small house, a bakehouse, marked upon the map 183, and recently sold to Exeter College, was let with two closes, one of which was Bladon Close, in 1571 to Thomas Almonde Taylor of Oxford; then, probably as subtenants, to Bentley; Betterton; Richard George; George Treadwell; Nicholas Morris, baker; John Jolly; James Wiggington; 1757 William Hill and Mary his wife, widow of the last tenant; John Hanwell. A large portion of the above-mentioned land has changed hands, and is now the property of the Duke of Marlborough.

THE PROPERTY OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE IN KIDLINGTON.

Although this College does not possess any land in Kidlington at the present moment, they have numerous Deeds showing them to have had a considerable amount of property which they had purchased early in the reign of Elizabeth. This is probably one of the portions into which Blundell's estates were divided. The Deeds are as follows:

'Thomas Brownricke of Kidlington on the Green and Robert Raye of Oddington bought of William Frere of Oxford. 32nd Eliz. (May).

'Robert Raye released to Thomas Brownricke. 32nd Eliz. (Sept.).

'James Kidder of North Aston bought of Thomas Brownricke of Stanton St. John. 36 Eliz.

38th Eliz. 'The Provost and Fellows of Queen's College pay to Kidder of New Woodstock £100 for all that messuage or tenement and 1 yardland lying in the Town and Field of Kidlington, &c., and houses, buildings, farm stables late in the occupation of John Humfries alias Weyle now in the occupation of Edward Hoffer or his assigns. All which premises in the name of William Frere, Esq., late purchased of Thomas Gadbury¹, Gent., deceased².'

The remaining deeds are principally releases for portions of land, one as follows:

'A release of Edmund Gledhill, yeoman, to John Tredwell, yeoman, of all action and touching the due and arrearages of 2 lbs. of pepper due to the Lord of Kidlington, for certain land holden of him now in the occupation of John Tredwell aforesaid.

¹ 'Thomas Gadbury, Gent., buried 3 April, 1586.' Reg.

² Signed by Kidder with the seal of Street: viz. three Catherine wheels

within a bordure engrailed with a crescent for difference. This was probably adopted by the new Lord of the Manor in memory of Chaucer.

‘Edmund Gledhill, yeoman, received £15 from John Broadwood, husbandman, upon a verdict and judgement in an action at law, for dues and arrears of 2 lbs. of pepper due to the Lord of the Manor¹.’

Can this be ‘Pepper Close’? No. 201 upon the map.

The ‘Town’ portion of this property, a small farm house in Church End, was sold by the College about 1880, after which an ornamental grove of elms was cut down by the purchaser. The ‘Field’ portion was disposed of many years ago and was again put up to auction in 1890 and was then described as

‘all that piece of valuable Arable Land, situate on the road from Kidlington Station to Woodstock, containing 24a. 2r. 29p. (more or less), bounded on the south and west by property of His Grace the Duke of Marlborough, on the east by property of F. P. Morrell, Esq., and on the north by the road and facing property of the Rector and Fellows of Exeter College, Oxford.’

BURY HOUSE.

This name marked upon the map as a locality beside the church is all that remains to tell us of what may have stood here. Considerable remains of foundations are to be traced in these fields, pointing out that the old Town or Bury probably extended this way.

Bury House was possibly the residence of the Bailiff who managed the land around here belonging to the Abbey, and also a resort for some of the inmates of Osney, who would require the stalls in the choir for saying the divine office. There is no confirmation to be found for this supposition in the annals of the Abbey, and the fact of the Abbot owning a large Rectory house in the village would seem to argue the inutility of a second house; again, the property being distinct from that which we know was owned by the Abbey might militate against this idea. It was treated as land of the Manor, not of the Abbey. It seems, in Sir William Morton’s lifetime, to have been the property of Griffin Irons, and was purchased from him by Sir William, as we learn from his will. It was afterwards exchanged by the Sydenhams with the Duke of Marlborough.

Can this have been the house belonging to Saunders, and afterwards to Streete and Conant? Dr. Conant, according to Rawlinson, lived at the ‘Bally,’ probably a mistake for ‘Bury².’

¹ The deed is signed by Hollyns and Dawson, probably churchwardens. This will show what land Gledhill’s charity was charged upon.

² Hutton’s Collections, 379.

Under the five Divisions, the Chief Manor, Brasenose property, Conant's property, Queen's property, and Hampden Manor, we may presume to summarise the partition of the Estate of Kidlington, we may now go on to recall some of the people who once lived here.

II.

STREET OF KIDLINGTON.

Taken from the Register and the Tombstones.

ARMS.

1. Three Catherine wheels, within a bordure engrailed; a crescent for difference. This shield is affixed to a Deed in Queen's College, Oxon, relating to Kidlington.

2. Parted per pale, Baron et Femme. *Streete*.—Argent, three Catherine wheels. *West*.—Ermine, a bend indented sable. Two crests—on a helmet a fleur-de-lys; on a helmet a boar's head on a mural crown. This shield from the tomb of Henry Streete.

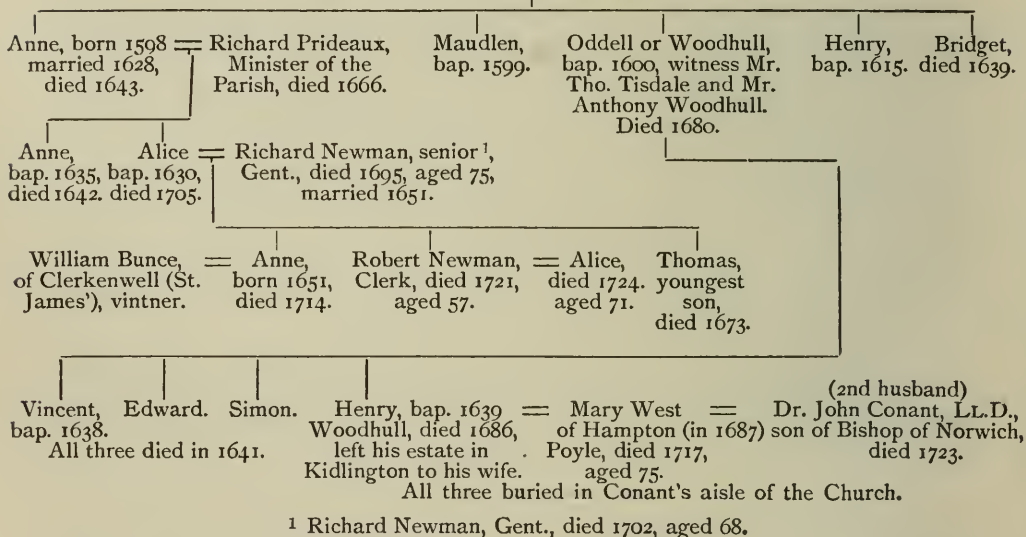
3. Parted per pale, Baron et Femme. *Conant*.—Azure, billeted or. *West*.—As before. Crest—the Conant shield. This shield from the tomb of Dr. Conant.

In the Islip register we find: '1590, Maria fil. Robert Streete bap,' '1600, Benjamin Knight, of Whateley, married to Alice Streete.'

Mr. Vincent Street

Henry, bap. 1599.

Mr. Edward Street = Alice, died 1627.



The Street's house in Oxford appears to have been one of the block of houses standing in the middle of the highway south of St. Mary Magdalen church. We conclude this from the following:—Godfrey Streete paid hearth tax in 1665 for St. Michael's parish in North-west Ward, also for the same parish in North-east Ward, and Robert Streete and Alice, widow, paid for St. Mary Magdalen parish. No other locality could have fulfilled these three conditions¹.

In the 30th year of Queen Elizabeth the Parish Register records the birth of a daughter to Mr. Streete, and this is our earliest notice of a family who dwelt for four generations in one of the Manor Houses. This daughter Anne married Mr. Richard Prideaux the Minister, and her grandchildren lived in Kidlington and are buried in the church. Another child Woodhull or Oddell Streete was the father of Henry Woodhull Streete the last of the name. Father and son were buried within a few years of each other in the north aisle now called 'Conant's aisle.' Wood notices the death of the younger one in these words:

'*Woodhull* Streete of Kidlington died 30th March, 1686. He married . . . daughter of John West of Hampton Poyle, Gent., but had no issue by her, yet left his estate to her. He was buried by his father².'

Dr. John Conant³, a Fellow of Merton and son of the Rector of Exeter, married the widow of Henry Streete, and through her became one of the Lords of the Manor. Dr. Conant was probably a widower at the time as his son was married in Kidlington ten years later to Mrs. Pocock. One of the family eventually settled in America and his descendants are still known by the name of Oddell Conant. Madame Conant lived thirty years after her second marriage, and bequeathed certain charities to the people of Kidlington; she was buried between her two husbands. Dr. Conant survived her six years. He had shown himself an active man of business, and all the Parish accounts and books of the date bear his signature.

¹ Oxford City Documents, Thorold Rogers, Historical Society, 1891.

² Wood's MSS., E. 1.

³ For account of the Conant family, see Boase's Register of Exeter College. For tombstones and epitaphs, see chapter 9. Dr. Conant's father was buried at Northampton, his mother, Elizabeth Reynolds, at Swerford, co. Oxon. She had six sons and six daughters, and

died 1707, aged 76 years. The arms upon her tomb are "ten billets, 4, 3, 2, 1, impaling chevron chequy between three cross crosslets." Rawlinson 400 B. Roger Conant left Plymouth for the New World in 1622. See Conant ped., compiled by Fred Odell Conant of Portland, Maine, U.S., and W. Boys' Hist. of Sandwich, p. 274.

THE CHIEF MANOR.

The lands belonging to the 'chief manor' of Kidlington we may trace from deeds of sale coming down from Waller and Hanbury¹, the heirs of Elizabeth and Edmund Hogan, and Brent to Dr. Bouchier, LL.D. These lands included 'Kidlington Park,' 'Lynis Farm' and 'Coates Farm.' Dr. Bouchier settled this property upon his son, James Bouchier, one of whose daughters married Dr. Joseph Smith, LL.D.²

The Provost of Queens' College, father of the above Dr. Smith, appears to have had some interest in Kidlington independently of this, as upon his wife's monument in the church he is styled 'Chief Lord of the Manor.'

A short sketch of the life of Dr. Smith will be appropriate here:—

Dr. Smith was the fifth son of William Smith, M.A., of Clare Hall, Cambridge, and Rector of Ingleton in Yorkshire. His grandfather was Matthew Smith of Knaresborough, co. York, and he himself married the daughter and eventually heiress of Henry Lowther the Squire of his father's parish.

He graduated M.A. at Oxford, 1st March, 1696, at the age of twenty-six, and the same year accompanied his Godfather, Sir Joseph Williamson, to the Low Countries, whither he went as Plenipotentiary to conclude the Peace of Ryswyck, which was to put an end to the long and bloody war which had raged for many years. It is said that there happened a violent storm while they were on the passage which endangered the lives of the whole party and brought on a violent fit of the gout to Sir Joseph Williamson as soon as he landed. While thus ill in bed Sir Joseph called to his bedside his Godson, Joseph Smith, and bade him fetch his will from the bureau.

Sir J. Williamson had designed to leave a large sum of money to found a college in Dublin to be called Queen's College, but now he bade his Godson and Secretary make the alteration and change the bequest in favour of his own College in Oxford. The will being

¹ See Pedigree, p. 73.

² From Deeds in the office of F. Morrell, Esq., of Oxford. 'Kidlington

Park' is mentioned as belonging to Jane Whytinge.

ready for signature Lady Williamson came in very inopportunately, and turning to the secretary exclaimed, 'Well, Mr. Smith, what have you there?' He, feeling that Sir Joseph had no mind that she should know, put her off by replying quickly, 'Nothing but news, Madam.' By which diplomatic term she understood that she was not to inquire¹. Upon Smith's return to England he took orders and became Rector of Knight's Enham with Upton Grays, Hants, which he exchanged for the living of St. Dionis, Lime Street, London²; Minister of Russell's Court Chapel in St. Martin's parish, and Chaplain to Queen Caroline³. His learning with his courtly manners having gained him universal respect, he was, during his absence in London, unanimously chosen Provost of his own College of Queen's in 1730.

His wife, whom he survived for eleven years, died and was buried in Kidlington Church, 1745. Dr. Smith was buried in Queen's College, and his body was afterwards removed to the vault under the chancel of the new chapel. A portrait of him is to be seen in the Upper Common Room of the College, a copy of the same in the Hall, and his arms also appear over the façade of the wing, in the Pediment under the allegorical figures. In the passage between the Hall and Chapel of Queen's College is a tablet to Dr. Smith's memory, and also to that of Dr. T. Halton, uncle to his wife⁴.

Dr. Joseph Smith, Doctor of Laws, only son of the Provost, married Elizabeth the daughter of Dr. Bouchier of Hanborough and Professor of Law at Oxford. Their children were born in Oxford, and were registered either in the parish of St. Giles or that of St. Mary Magdalen; the eldest son, Joseph Bouchier, in both⁵. The house where they lived was the last house between the two parishes next to and north of St. John's College. Dr. Smith died in 1776, followed in six months by his widow. They were both buried beside his first wife and several of his children, in Kidlington Church.

1779. 'Joseph Bouchier Smith, by conveyance dated 15 Oct., to his

¹ Playfair's *British Family Antiquities*, vol. 6, p. clxv. Appendix, under Williamson.

² Gutch's *Coll. and Halls*, vol. 1, p. 149.

³ Brown Willis' account of Lincoln Cathedral.

⁴ 'Mary Lowther, youngest daughter of Henry Lowther of Ingleton and

Lowther Town, Cockermouth, and of Margaret Halton of Greystoke. She eventually became sole representative of this branch of the Lowther family.' Foster's *Pedigrees*.

⁵ Peshall's *Wood, St. M. Mag. Parish and St. Giles*, pp. 220, 223 and 228.

sister, Mary Smith, Joseph Smith Hargreaves, Thomas Woodward, and James Morrell, of all Manors, Lands, &c., in the county of Oxford¹.

This was executed under the will of his parents upon his coming of age and the Trustees appear to have sold the property immediately. His name only occurs in the old lists of land tax assessment for the years 1785 to 1800, in which latter year the name changes to 'late J. B. Smith,'² and William Bulley of the Angel Inn, Oxford, became the next possessor of the house. The 'award deed' upon the enclosure of the parish signed in 1821 assigned certain lots to W. Bulley in lieu of manorial rights. The house in all probability had been let before this, to Robert Buswell, 'Gent,' who died in 1800. We next find the house in the hands of Thomas Robinson, Esq., of the Bank, Oxford, and he undertook to rebuild the mansion, in a valuation made in 1839 of the parish of Kidlington for rating purposes, his name is entered for 'Mansion house and offices unfinished.' It is said that the drainage was so unsatisfactory, probably owing to the Canal having changed the natural flow of the water, that it was found impossible to complete the house for a family dwelling, and later on it was pulled down. The Duke of Marlborough purchased the property for £40,000 after Mr. Robinson's death.

Dr. Smith's Epitaph at Queen's College:—

'Sacred to the Memory of JOSEPH SMITH, D.D.,
whose Remains are deposited in the Vault of the Chapel.

'Descended from an ancient Family at Durham, and of Knaresborough in the County of York. He was in the early part of his Life Secretary to Sir Joseph Williamson at the Time of his being Plenipotentiary at the Treaty of Ryswick.

'He became afterwards a Prebendary in the Cathedral Churches of St. Paul and Lincoln, was sometime Chaplain in Ordinary to the late Queen Caroline; was more than forty years Rector of St. Dionis in London, which he held with the Donative of Paddington in Middlesex, and in the year 1730 was elected, without solicitation, Provost of Queen's College, by the unanimous Suffrages of the whole Society.

'Distinguished for his Learning, Eloquence, Politeness of Manner, Piety, and Charity, He with great Prudence and judicious Moderation, presided over his College to its general Happiness. Its Interests were the constant Object of his Attention.

¹ Deed in office of F. Morrell and Son, Solicitors, Oxford.

² In County Office, Oxford.

‘He was himself a good Benefactor to it, and was blest with the Success of obtaining for it, by his respectable Influence, several ample Donations to the very great and perpetual Increase of its Establishment.

‘Having acquitted himself in the several Stations in which Providence had placed him, with singular Eminency of character and reputation, he died November 23, 1756, aged 86.

‘He married Mary the daughter and co-heiress of Henry Lowther, Esq., of Ingleton Hall in the county of York, and of Lowther in the county of Fermanagh in Ireland, and grand-daughter to Col. Sir Richard Lowther, Governor of Pontefract Castle, and Master of the Ordnance to King Charles the First, and was nearly allied to the Right Honourable Baron Lowther, Lord Viscount Lonsdale.

‘She died April 29, 1745, leaving issue one Son, Joseph Smith, Esq., LL.D., of Kidlington, in the county of Oxford, and Anne, the Wife of Major James Hargreaves of Oxford; who married for her first Husband William Lamplugh, Prebendary of Lincoln, Grandson to Thomas Lamplugh, Archbishop of York.

‘To the Memory also of TIMOTHY HALTON, D.D., Uncle to the above Mrs. Mary Smith, and son of Miles Halton, of Greystock in Cumberland, Esq.

‘He was Provost of this College, sometime Vice-Chancellor of the University, Archdeacon of Oxford and Brecknock, Canon of St. David’s, and Rector of Charleton on Otmore.

‘He died July 21, 1704, aged 72, and his remains have been removed into the Vault of this Chapel.

‘He was a considerable Benefactor to the College.’

Lines on the death of JOSEPH SMITH, D.D., Provost of Queen’s:—

I.

‘Not in oblivion’s gloom expire
The breasts that glow with sacred fire;
Ordained by Heaven their worth to save,
The watchful Muse arrests the hearse
And bids them live in endless verse,
Triumphant o’er the withering grave.

II.

‘Thee, Smith, she marked, when from its day
Emerged thy pure ethereal ray
To mix with sainted souls on high:
And while Philippa’s sons the tear
Of gratitude pour’d on thy bier,
Entuned thy heartfelt elegy.

III.

' Ah, me! she cry'd, the good and wise
 In death's cold arms extended lies,
 See Virtue mourn the afflicting blow!
 His was the courtly grace and ease
 That taught her harsher voice to please,
 And smooth'd the roughness of her brow.

IV.

' Say, ye who all attention hung,
 O'er the sweet accents of his tongue,
 Whene'er he pour'd the instructive lore,
 How, taught in holy hope to rise,
 Ye burn'd impatient for the skies
 Allur'd by fading earth no more?

V.

' Nor did persuasive speech alone
 Fix on his lips her sacred throne,
 More strong his fair example taught:
 The laws he preach'd his steps pursued,
 While every eye with wonder view'd,
 And emulative ardour caught.

VI.

' Oft has the drooping head of care,
 Rear'd by his hand from fell despair,
 View'd days of brighter tenor flow;
 Oft has his judgment's piercing rays,
 Unravell'd doubt's perplexing maze,
 And given the heart new peace to know.

VII.

' Smit with the charms of vary'd good,
 Each virtuous breast his friendship woo'd,
 O Williamson, thy fav'rite boast;
 Ev'n the Fair Pride¹ of sov'reign power,
 Call'd him to share the social hour,
 And pomp in grateful converse lost.

VIII.

' But chief for long try'd wisdom known,
 Fair learning mark'd him for her own,
 Exulting in his generous sway,
 Kind genial warmth his influence shed,
 Each science rear'd its laurel'd head,
 Each latent genius sprang to day.

¹ He was Chaplain to Queen Caroline.

IX.

‘Now, whilst he soars to purer light,
The Muse he nursed pursues his flight,
Far as the confines of the skies :
Then harps angelic take the strain
And hail him to th’ethereal plain,
Whilst his hands reach th’immortal prize.’

From London Magazine, August, 1757.

Skelton, in his *Antiquities of Oxfordshire*, gives us a list of the portraits he saw in the Manor House :—

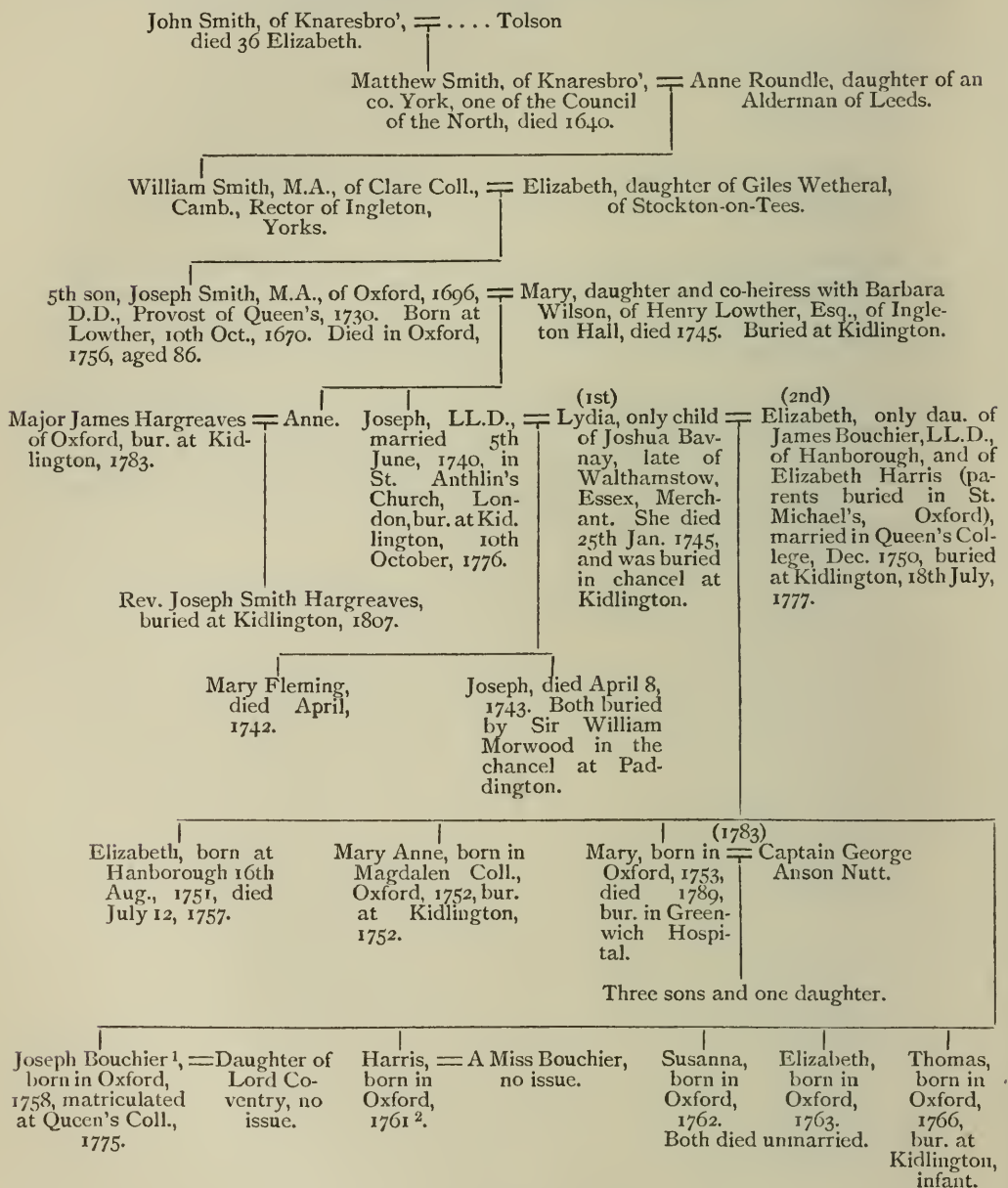
‘His (Dr. Smith, the Provost of Queen’s) portrait is in the present Manor House with the following, which I shall mention as they seem not to have been hitherto mentioned. The portrait of Dr. John Halton; the right Honourable Baron Lowther; Lord Lonsdale; Sir Gerard Lowther, Lord Chief Justice of Common Pleas in Ireland, who died in Dublin 1610; Matthew Smith of Knaresbro’, who died in 1640, he was grandfather to Provost Smith before mentioned; Thomas Smith¹, Bishop of Carlisle, who died in 1701, aged 97; several female members of the family of Smith; Lord Clifford and Rosamund Clifford.’

¹ He was no relation, only a friend.

PEDIGREE OF DR. SMITH, PROVOST OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

ARMS.

A shield of nine quarterings. 1st. *Smith*, as on the Hatchments in the church. 2nd. *Plantagenet*, within a bordure gobonné, and a canton. 3rd. Worn out. 4th. Ermine, on a canton argent a cross Calvary. 5th. Argent, a lion rampant sable. 6th. Gules, three lucies hauriant argent. 7th. Sable, Three escallop shells, within a bordure engrailed argent. 8th. Sable, three covered cups argent. 9th. Or, two bars gules, in dexter corner a mullet pierced. This shield is over the tablet to Dr. Joseph Smith and his wife.



¹ In Gentleman's Magazine, Dec. 29, 1822, occurs the following: 'While on a visit to the Earl of Coventry, at Worcester, "John" Bouchier Smith, Esquire. He, while sealing a letter, was attacked with spasms in the chest, which in a few moments terminated his existence.'

² In Burke's Ext. Baronetage under 'Sidley,' Harris Smith is said to have been admitted to Winchester College about 1772 as Founder's Kin.

Part of this Pedigree supplied by the courtesy of Dr. Magrath of Queen's College.

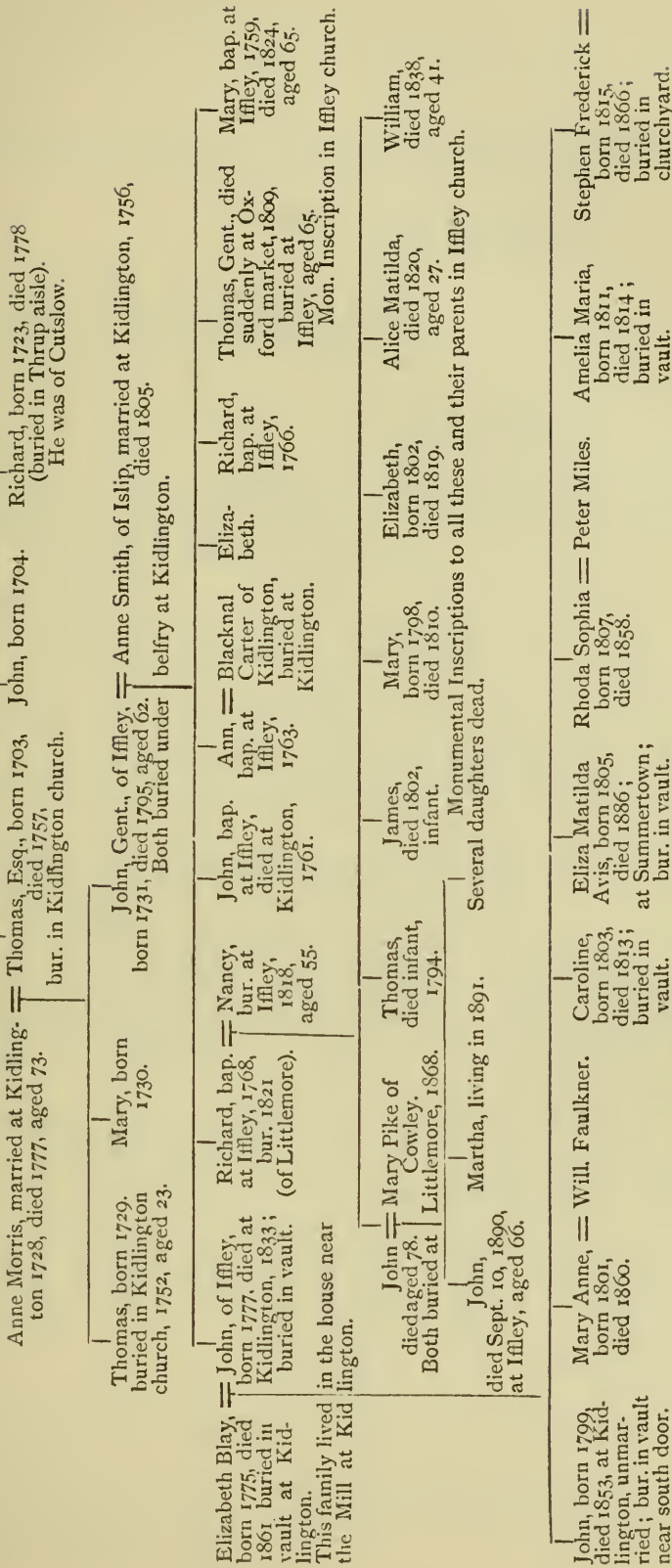
SMITH OF KIDLINGTON, IFFLEY, AND LITTLEMORE.

These all taken from the Registers and Tombstones of Kidlington and Iffley.

This family is the same with Alice Smith who left the Iffley Charity.

Thomas Smith

Thomas == Anne, died 1743 (?).



Joseph Smith, of Littlemore, buried at Iffley; he was nephew of Mrs. Carter.

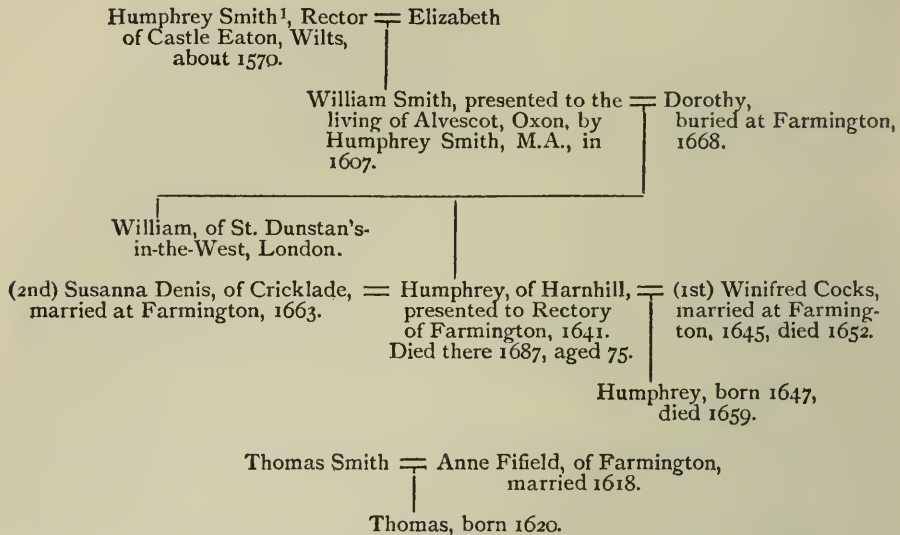
Thomas, Gent., died suddenly at Oxford market, 1809, buried at Iffley, aged 65. Mon. Inscription in Iffley church.

William, died 1838, aged 41.

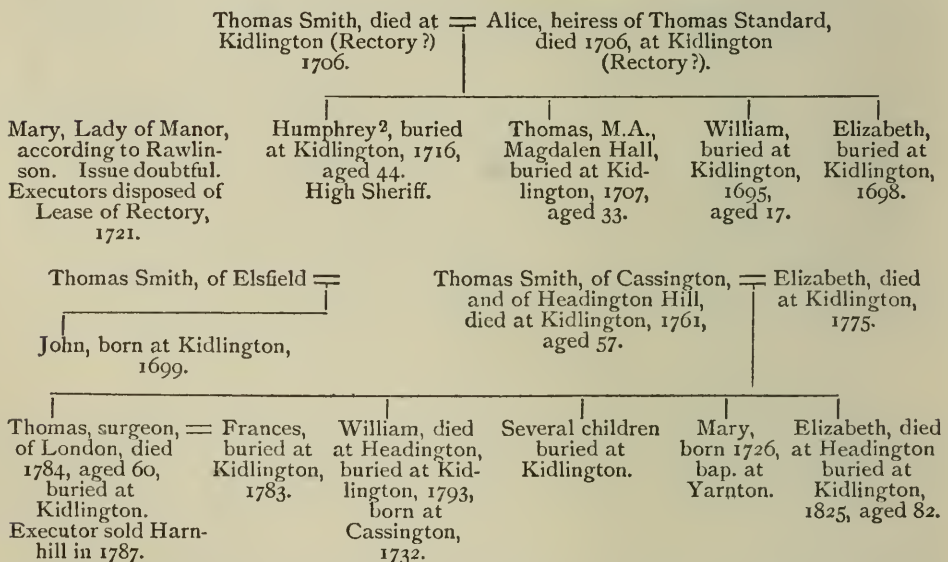
SMITH OF FARMINGTON, KIDLINGTON, AND HEADINGTON HILL.

ARMS.

Smith of Farmington and of Kidlington.—Parted per pale, ermine and erminois. Over all an eagle displayed sable, beaked and membered, gules.



These all from Register of Farmington, co. Gloucester. The arms upon Humphrey's gravestone in that church, also upon the stones in Kidlington Church.



These from the Registers of Cassington and Kidlington and tombstones in Kidlington Church.

¹ 'Ann, wife of Humphrey Smith, Clerk. Buried at Black Bourton 1617.' Wood, E. I.

² Humphrey Smith matriculated at Wadham College 17th Nov., 1690, aged 17 (Gardiner's Reg. of Wadham).

From Atkins' History of Gloucestershire:—

'Harnhill. Thomas Smith, Esq., son of Humphrey Smith, is present Lord of the Manor. He has a good house and estate here, but he resides in Oxfordshire.

'Living.—Patrons in 1595, the Queen.

1666, Humphrey Smith, Clerk.

1700, Thomas Smith, Esq.'

Confirmation of Arms to Humphrey Smith of Farmington¹.

'Whereas it appeareth by the Certificate of Richard Goddard now Rector of Castle Eaton in co. Wilts, That Mr. Humphrey Smith who was heretofore Rector for the space of 47 years did bear for his Armes an Eagle Displayed as is evident by the Ingravement thereof 57 years since upon a Tombstone in the Church of Castle Eaton aforesaid where the said Humphrey Smith and Elizabeth his wife are interred. And whereas I am informed by Francis Sandford, Esq., Rouge Dragon Pursuivant of Armes, that he having collected the Issue of the said Humphrey and Elizabeth doth find that Humphrey Smith of Farmington, in co. Glos', and William Smith of St. Dunstan's parish in the West, London, are grandchildren of the said Humphrey and Elizabeth, that is to say sonnes of William Smith sonne and heir of the said Humphrey and Elizabeth, and that their father and grandfather have successively used the said Armes and sealed therewith. But the same being not registered in the College of Armes and the said Humphrey and William having no other evidence thereof than the said seals and Tombstone (such other memorials as were being imbezzled during their minority) they are not certain of the true colours of the said Armes; I, James, Earl of Suffolk, Deputy to the Right Honble. Earl of Norwich, Earl Marshal of England, being humbly desired on the behalf of the said Humphrey and William to give my consent that the said Armes so proved may be allowed and entered in the said College of Armes, doe hold the same reasonable. And therefore doe hereby will and require you to devise such colours for the said Armes as may be without wrongdoing to any. And in regard the said Humphrey and William have liberally contributed toward the rebuilding of the said College of Armes the Registrar of the said College is required (according to his Majesty's commission touching such Benefactors) to register the said Armes together with the descent of the said William Smith and also these presents in the College of Armes, under seal of the Earl Marshal's Office, 7th Oct., 1674.

'SUFFOLK.'

¹ Ashmolean MSS. 858, p. 239.

CHAPTER VI.

I.—HAMPDEN MANOR.

IN the Chartulary of Osney two charters are quoted referring to the Mill and Fisheries in Kidlington, they appear to be confirmed by Edmund Hampden, son of John still living; doubtless showing that this family held land here before the suppression of the Abbey.

Jerome Hampden of Hartwell (same family as John Hampden the Patriot) gave a charter to the City of Oxford in 153 $\frac{3}{4}$, and about the same time there was also a Sir Edmund Hampden of Woodstock of the same family¹.

Some members of this family were buried in the church of St. Mary Magdalen.

‘Pray for the soules of Richard Hampden, Esq., and Alys his wife, of whose sowles God have mercy: which Richard departed A. D. 1529².’

Their estate in Kidlington may probably have remained in its old form and thus have come down to us through one of the Blundell sisters.

Owing to deficient information we can give no certain account of this estate previous to the 17th century. We find that it was then known as Hampden Manor³, and that it had been occupied by Humphrey Fitz-Herbert, whose ‘brass’ is in the church. Fitz-Herbert belonged to the family of that name at Norbury in Derbyshire, and the present representative is now settled in Staffordshire, and still adhering to the ancient faith. John Fitz-Herbert married the heiress of Sawbridgeworth in county Herts, and his son Humphrey built the fine Elizabethan house at Begbroke Hill. It seems probable that he died before it was completed, as he was buried at Kidlington in 1616. Shortly after we find the Manor in the hands of Thomas

¹ Turner’s City of Oxford, p. 118. Sheahan’s Bucks, p. 175.

² Peshall’s Oxford, p. 24 of Mon. Inscriptions. The first entry in the Kid-

lington Register is the christening of a Hampton.

³ Sir William Morton’s will.

PEDIGREE OF JOHN SMITH OF HAMPDEN MANOR, FATHER TO LADY MORTON;

Drawn from Wood, D. 7. 4; Wood, D. 5; St. Toll's Register; Wood, E. 5, pp. 82 and 85; Churton's Life of Bishop Smith; Visitation of Oxon, Harleian Soc.

ARMS.

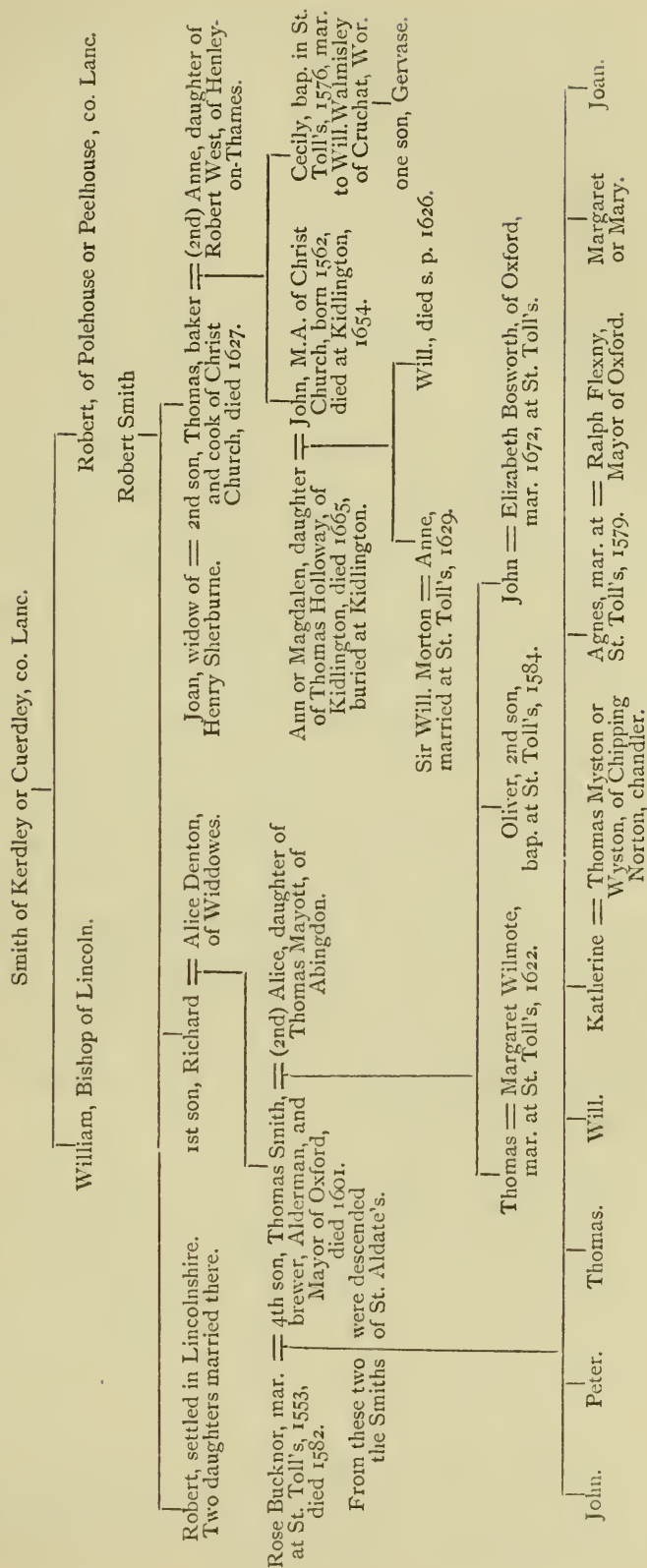
Smith of Oxford and Holloway.—Three coats used by this family, taken from the Harleian MSS. in British Museum.

No. 1.—Argent, a chevron sable, charged with a martlet for difference, between three roses gules.

No. 2.—Argent, a fesse daucetté, charged with a martlet for difference, between three roses gules.

No. 3.—Gules, a fesse argent between three crescents, a canton ermine, *Holloway*.

No. 4.—Taken from the tomb in Kidlington church of Mr. John Smith and his wife. A lozenge parted per pale, for *Smith* and *Holloway*. The dexter side as No. 2 without the martlet. Both sides charged with a crescent for difference.



Holloway, whose daughter married John Smith of the kith and kin of the Founder of Brasenose College. It will be necessary in order to understand our history to give a short account of this family of Smith. When William Smith was promoted successively to the Sees of Coventry and Lincoln, three of his nephews from Lancashire came to settle in the more congenial atmosphere of the University of Oxford. One of them followed his uncle to Lincolnshire, the second, Richard, settled in Oxford, and his son Thomas became an influential citizen and brewer, and, according to Wood, became the father of all the Smiths of St. Aldate's. The City Records¹ are full of amusing incidents relating to him and his sons, but which do not concern us here. Thomas, the third brother, became cook of Christ Church, and was father to John Smith, of Kidlington, mentioned above².

A young barrister, William Morton, married the only daughter of Mr. John Smith in 1629 at St. Aldate's Church, and their elder children were born in Oxford. It is possible that Sir William was in some way connected with Kidlington previous to his marriage as the name occurs in the Register as early as 1584. After the death of Sir William Morton this estate was sold by Sir James Morton, his son, to William Pudsey of Elsfield, and during his ownership the house was let to one Finmore³ of Oxford, whose marriage with Mrs. Deborah Coaley of Oxford took place in the parish church in 1704. The last Pudsey died in 1729, leaving an infant daughter, who subsequently married Rev. John Sydenham, and their son left the estate to his daughter's husband Richard Burgoyne, with whose descendants it still remains⁴. From tradition we learn that the house once occupied three sides of a square—at present the pretty summer-house overlooking the road is all that remains of the architectural ornament of the place.

¹ See Gutch, *Fasti*, vol. 4; also Turner's *Records of the City*.

² 'This John was son of Thomas Smith, once cook of Christ Church, and had issue one only daughter, who was married to Sir William Morton, Knight, and for her fortune brought about £100 (£1000) per annum in land in Kidlington and houses in Oxford. By this lady Sir William Morton had one son surviving, afterwards Sir James Morton (and several daughters), who sold the part of the estate lying here to one Mr. Pudsey, a lawyer;' Rawl.

In Wood E. I. we read £100; in Rawl. £1000, B 400 c.

³ *Finmore*. This family is from North Hincksey. In the church there are monuments to one of them: The 'Recorder of Abingdon,' and to 'Elizabeth, wife of Richard Finmore of Kidlington, 1716.' The history of this family has been published by one of its members.

⁴ This daughter had no children, and the Kidlington property was left by her husband Burgoyne to his children by a former marriage.

Upon the 'Town Moor' in front of the house once stood the old hollow oak, roomy enough to accommodate eight or ten men. This served Sir William Morton as a temporary lock-up for rogues and vagabonds until he was at leisure to attend to their case. The tree measured twenty-five feet round above the spurs ¹.

II.—SIR WILLIAM MORTON, K.B., JUSTICE OF THE KING'S BENCH.

The family of Morton arose in the northern part of Nottinghamshire where that county borders upon Yorkshire: they held land at Morton, close to Bawtry, a small country town where one of the family founded an alms-house for the care of the poor, and a chapel in which they were buried ².

From the locality where they lived the family came to be known as Morton or Bawtry indifferently. They spread over several of the midland counties, and from one branch of the family came the celebrated Cardinal Morton who died in 1500.

William Morton, the subject of this memoir, was born in Worcestershire where his immediate ancestors had settled. His father was James Morton of Clifton in Severnstoke, and his great grandfather was Sir Rowland Morton of Massington, co. Hereford, one of the Masters of Requests in Henry VIII's time ³. His mother was Jane, daughter of William Cook of Shilwood, Worcestershire.

William Morton graduated at Sydney College, Cambridge, took the degrees of B.A. and M.A. in 1622 and 1625, and was admitted to the Inner Temple in 1622. He came to Oxford, where he met with his future wife Anne, the heiress of John Smith of Hampden Manor, at the house of his family in St. Aldate's parish ⁴. The register of the marriage is to be found in Peshall's Wood, the original having perished. The eldest son, John, was born in Kidlington in 1630. William Morton seems to have followed his profession for fourteen years, until the troubles breaking out between the King and the Parliament,

¹ Wood and Rawlinson.

² Burke's *Extinct Baronetage*, p. 373.

³ Foss, *Lives of the Judges*, vol. 7.

⁴ Sir W. Morton's will. This house was close to Kepeharm's Lane in St.

Aldate's, and in Queen Elizabeth's reign had been known as the 'Christopher.' Wood, ed. Clark, *Hist. Soc.*, 1889, vol. I, note 11, p. 200. This is now No. 116 St. Aldate's, or thereabouts.

he declared for the Royalist party, and exchanging the gown for the sword joined a regiment of horse under Lord Chandos. Clarendon gives him the highest praise, and speaks of him as

‘having given frequent testimony of signal courage in several actions, in which he had received many wounds both by the pistol and the sword, that his mettle was never suspected and his fidelity as little questioned¹.’

He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and early in 1644, owing to the absence in London of the Commander, he was placed at the head of the garrison of Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire².

This place was a thorn in the side of the Rebels, being situated upon the road of communication between London and Gloucester, besides being the key to the valleys which sheltered the clothing mills and the trade of the county. During the early part of the war Sudeley had been garrisoned for the King, and a large quantity of cloth belonging to mill owners in the neighbourhood had been stored there for safety³. More than once the old castle had been besieged and taken by each party in turn. It surrendered to Massie in 1642, and the Royalists were again in possession the following year, and in September Charles was there in person⁴. We read in a Commonwealth paper of that date,

‘that their convoys could not go forward for the Enemie was very strong in Gloucestershire that there is no passing without great strength. The Enemie amounteth to 7000 horse and foot, which lie at Evesham, Campden, Sudeley Castle, and other places⁵.’

After the battle of Gosford Bridge, when the King had left Oxford and gone to Burford upon his way to Worcester, Waller and Essex followed him as far as Evesham. There they consulted together and came to the resolve to separate, and that Waller should retrace his steps and reduce Sudeley. With that view he sent to invite Massie, Governor of Gloucester, to meet him before the Castle. Massie was first upon the scene, and surprised some of the men outside the walls. A short skirmish ensued before they retreated, and Sir William Waller arriving a few hours later, summoned the garrison to surrender⁶.

¹ Clarendon's Hist. of Rebellion, vol. 4, ed. 1826.

² Rudder's Hist. of Gloucestershire.

³ Rudge's Hist. of Gloucestershire.

⁴ King's Pamphlets, 1664, vol. 148.

In British Museum.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ See Clarendon, also Rudder's and Rudge's Histories of Gloucestershire.

William Morton refused, when Waller opened fire upon them. We read,

‘the artillery did little harm upon the yielding stone, but a stray shot entering an embrasure took off the head of their cannoneer and exceedingly daunted the common soldiers¹.’

A verse from an old ballad of the county commemorated this event:—

‘Bounce, Bounce again go Waller’s guns
And Morton began to swear,
I’d rather lose ten thousand pounds
Than the head of my cannoneer.’

1644, 8th June. This fatality alone would not have overcome Morton’s resistance, had not treachery intervened. An officer crept out from the Castle and betrayed to Waller their want of provisions and other necessaries, on this Morton yielded and gave up the garrison and himself without any indemnity for his own person. According to the Parliamentary account,

‘Shudeley Castle was taken by storme, with all the armes and ammunition : 70 gentlemen and commanders, 80 horse, 250 common soldiers, and 2 pieces of ordnance².’

Cloth to the value of £4000 was also seized. Sir William Morton was conducted to the Tower in London and there remained until the end of the war³.

‘Loyalty is still the same
Whether it lose or win the game;
True as a dial to the sun
Although it be not shined upon.’

The date of Sir William Morton’s knighthood is September 8th, 1643, and it occurred while the King paid a flying visit to Sudeley⁴.

Now let us return to the family at Hampden Manor. It is easy to imagine their anxiety and distress in the midst of the alarms and miseries of war. Without doubt every house in the village was full of soldiers of one party or the other. The three days’ fight at Gosford, the King’s march and countermarch to and from Woodstock, and the subsequent withdrawal of his infantry from the banks of the Cherwell, led to the occupation of Kidlington by the forces of Essex and the King’s night march pursued by the Parliamentary troops; the

¹ Mrs. Dent’s History of Sudeley Castle. State Papers, Dom., 1644, p. 219.

² King’s Pamphlets, 126.

³ Mrs. Dent’s Hist. of Sudeley. Sir

William’s portrait forms the frontispiece of her book.

⁴ Iter Carolinum in Bodleian Library.

news of the taking of Sudeley, which immediately followed, with the capture of the garrison, would travel fast and add to the distress of the sorrowing wife and family. We are told that he bore his imprisonment with resignation and fortitude but the date of his deliverance is not recorded ; probably he was kept in confinement for about three years, as the birth of another son, William, is registered in 1648. Sir William returned to the practice of his profession, and in the last year of the Commonwealth he was made Bencher of his Inn. Shortly after the restoration the King summoned him to the dignity of the Coif. In 1662 he was made Recorder of Gloucester, and was appointed Consiliarius to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester, his native county, and the following year he became King's Counsel and Judge of the King's Bench in 1665¹. The burial of his eldest and youngest daughters, Anne and Magdalen, took place upon the same day in 1670, the result of some family calamity and sorrow which has not come down to us. They lie with their four year old brother under the elegant monument in the Ladye Chapel. We have the record of the marriage of two other daughters, Cecily and Elizabeth, the latter in Kidlington, to Thomas Tourneur of Gray's Inn, and subsequently the birth of a daughter to them. Only one son, James Morton, survived his parents. Sir William Morton filled the Judicial Chair for seven years. While upon the Bench he was noted for stern severity to highwaymen and robbers, and doubtless his various experiences during the Civil War led him to treat such offenders with the severity which was rendered necessary by the long continued license of the times. His stern justice was long remembered in Kidlington. Morton was one of the judges who sat at Westminster to hear the appeals of those who had lost their property in the Great Fire of 1666. His exertions in this case met with the gratitude of his clients who had the portraits of all the judges, including Sir William, who acted in this case, hung in the Guildhall. It fell to the lot of Sir William to try the well known highwayman, Claud Duval. This miscreant, owing to a handsome person, had become the fashion of the day, and ladies of rank besieged the prison to obtain admittance to his cell in Newgate: they also signed a petition to get his release. Morton's sense of justice was so roused by this folly that he threatened to resign his seat if Duval were set at liberty, his protest prevailed and Duval was hanged. The foundation of the Alms-houses keeps

¹ See 'Foss' Judges,' all concerning Sir William Morton's judicial life. Private life from Register of parish.

Morton's name alive in Kidlington. In his will dated 1672 he makes provision for their management, but he does not appear to have returned to Kidlington. Lady Morton died in London in January, 1668; he died in Sergeant's Inn in September, 1673, and both are buried together in the Temple Church in London¹. Their monument is at present in the gallery of the Temple Church, removed thither upon the restoration of the church.

It is now divided into three portions. The upper one being the memorial to John Morton, the eldest son of the judge. This is surmounted by the coat of arms and crest, the same as appears on the Alms-houses at Kidlington, on either side of which is a frieze ornamented with fasces of military weapons and insignia.

INSCRIPTIONS.

'Hic jacet Johannes Morton armiger filius natu maximus Domini Willi. Morton et Annae uxoris ejus supra nominat.; Interioris Templi Socius; vir fortis, prudens, patiens valdeq. ingeniosus ac unius cohortis peditum in Hibernia Dux; nec non Kilkeniensis Civitatis in dicto regno gubernator. Obiit coelebs xxiii die Nov. A.D. MDCLXVIII. Aetatis suae xxxvi.'

'Ligeantia Legis Essentia.'

'Heic subtus jacet corpus Willm. Morton militis unius Justiciariorum serenissimi Dñi. Regis Caroli secundi ad placita coram ipso Rege tenenda assignat; vir fortis, doctus, pius ac justus, verus Ecclesia Anglicanae filius; Colonellus equorum atq. pedū. Caroli beatae memoriae prmn fidelis; trium Regum subditus diligens. Pacis Regni conservator, boni publici studiosus et amator, perduellium hostis ac praedonum malleus.

Obiit 23 Sept. { aetatis suae 68.
Regni Car. 2nd. 24.
Domini 1672.'

'Here lyeth under the Hope of a glorious and blessed Resurrection the Body of the Lady Anne Morton, late wife to Sir W. Morton, Knt., one of His Majestie's Justices of the King's Bench, Daughter and Heire of John Smith, of Kidlington, in the co. of Oxford, Gent. A lady orthodox and exemplary for piety, charity, humility, chastity, constancy, and patient suffering with her husband for the truth in times of persecution and rebellion, in brief one of the most virtuous amongst women, and worthy of pious and eternal memory.

She died 4th January, A.D. MDCLXVIII, aetatis 57.'

'To Almighty God and the Poor of Kidlington,' we leave their memory.

¹ Ant. à Wood. E. I. 'Buried in Temple Church on south side towards the upper end. There is a fair monu-

ment over their graves.' This order of these inscriptions has evidently been changed since their erection.

PEDIGREE OF MORTON OF KIDLINGTON.

ARMS.

Quarterly : 1st and 4th, a goat's head, erased ; 2nd and 3rd, ermine.

John Morton =

Stephen, bap. 1584.

Thomas Morton = Agnes Kente, married 2nd Nov., 1587.

Vincent Morton, buried 1629 (from Kidlington Register).

James Morton, of Clifton, in Severnstoke, co. Worcester, = Jane Cooke, dau. of Will. Cooke, of Shilwood, co. Worcester.

William Morton, died Sept. 1673, buried in the Temple Church, London.

= Anne Smith, of Oxford and Kidlington, born 23rd Feb., 1608, married at St. Aldate's, Oxford, 8th Feb., 1629, died Jan., 1668, buried with her husband in Temple Church.

Anne and other children born in Oxford. Anne died at Kidlington, 1670.

John, bap. at Kidlington, 1630, died 1668, buried in Temple.

George, bap. at Kidlington, 1634.

James¹, bap. at Kidlington, 1652.

William, bap. at Kidlington, 1648, buried at Kidlington, 1652.

Cecily, bap. at Kidlington, 1642.

= Henry Newberie, of Severnstoke, Surveyor of Customs in London, died 1679, aged 38. (Metcalf's Visitation of Worcester, 1682).

Three children, one son and two daughters.

Elizabeth, bap. at Kidlington, 1644 (the 1st child after her father's knighthood).

= Thomas Tourneur, of Gray's Inn, mar. at Kidlington, 18th May, 1665.

Magdalen, bap. 1650, and buried at Kidlington, 1670.

Anne, bap. at Kidlington, 1666.

¹ Sir James Morton was the only surviving son of his parents, was Notary Public, knighted 23rd Dec., 1671. He sold the Kidlington property. He married, 26th Dec., 1671, at Slougham, co. Sussex, Anne, the daughter and heiress of Sir John Covert, Knt. and Bart., and had two sons, John Morton and James Morton, the latter sold Slougham to Charles Sergison, Esq. (London Marriage Licenses and Burke's Extinct Baronetage). Sir James died June, 1696; his wife, June, 1714 (Berry's Sussex Pedigrees, p. 322).

III.—PUDSEY.

Amidst the dales of the north-west of Yorkshire upon the banks of two mountain streams Tees and Wharfe, are to be found the sites of the wellnigh forgotten hamlets of Barford and Bolton. Here were the homes of the ancient family of Pudsey, which gave to Durham its celebrated Bishop Hugh de Puteaco, as he is styled in the old chronicles.

Rowland, or Robert, the son of Henry Pudsey and Margaret Conyers, was attracted by the young widow of Thomas Fulthorpe of Barnard Castle, a town in Durham a few miles from Barford¹. She was Edith, the heiress of John Hore of Elesfield in Oxfordshire, and by this marriage Pudsey became Lord of Elsfield and of Langley in Warwickshire. The great grandson of this union was George Pudsey² who, by his second wife, became the father of Sir George, Recorder of Oxford, and of William Pudsey the subject of our history. The two brothers were both at the Bar. William purchased Hampden Manor from Sir James Morton. In the exercise of his profession he was called upon to give counsel's opinion in the historic dispute between the Fellows of Magdalen College and King James II, relative to the appointment of a President of the College. The Fellows, amongst whom was Dr. Alexander Pudsey, requested his opinion as to the obligation of their oath to maintain the statutes of their founder, against the King's mandate to admit Dr. Anthony Farmer to the Presidentship. In a letter dated Kidlington, 11 April, 1687, William Pudsey gives a very cautious answer, with an evident bias in favour of the King, and a very lively fear of compromising himself with either party, and concludes his letter with these words—

'this is a caution to us to be very tender in requiring oaths, &c. Sirs, this in great haste I venture to give as my opinion in Law and . . . I refer you to the opinion of Mr. Serg^t. Pemberton and Mr. Finch, &c. . . .'³

Several children were born to William Pudsey in Kidlington, and his son William succeeded to the property. After his death his widow became involved in a lawsuit with the Overseers of the Poor for the payment of arrears due to the Alms-houses. The payment of this sum was charged by Sir W. Morton upon land bought by him from Griffin Irons and situated near the church. The suit was closed in 1713

¹ Rawlinson 400 B in Bodl. Lib.

² See George Pudsey, Yarnnton.

³ Oxford Historical Society, Magdalen Coll., 1886, p. 21.

when Madame Pudsey paid the arrears, which amounted to £31 5s.¹ This dispute put the parish to the expense of a copy of Judge Morton's will, with a case to keep it in, and expenses to the total cost of 16s. 4d. Madame Pudsey probably left Kidlington and the house was let. She does not appear to have died here. One of the name, Mrs. Mary Pudsey, fell into poverty and was supported by the parish, and was eventually taken elsewhere in 1727². The second William Pudsey has left little behind him. A single entry in the parish accounts mentions him; on his tombstone he is styled Captain, probably in the local militia. His wife was the daughter of Mr. Welshman of Brackley, and widow of Roger Almont. An infant son died the year after his father, and the estate came to his only daughter, Anne, married later on to the Rev. John Sydenham. Mrs. Pudsey is buried with her husband and several grandchildren in the south or Sydenham aisle of the church.

Mr. Sydenham seems to have acted as curate here: he signed some parish accounts in 1756 as 'Minister.' The twelve children of this marriage were born at Hampden Manor, and at the same time another John Sydenham, who was excise officer and called himself of Dulverton, was living in Kidlington. In 1810 another Rev. John Sydenham who was Rector of Ratley³ in Warwickshire, died here.

In 1834 Amy Sydenham married Richard Burgoyne, and in his family the property has remained until the present time.

From Parish Register:—

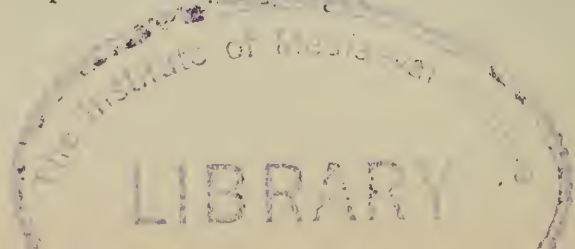
John Sydenham, of Dulverton, = Amy, died 1771 (?). co. Somerset.				
Thomas, 3rd son, born 25th Sept., 1763.	William, 4th son, born 2nd July, 1765.	George, 5th son, born 19th July, 1767.	Grace, born 25th Sept., 1768.	Anne, born 23rd Sept., 1770.
Amy Sydenham, died 13th Jan., 1771.				
Anne Sydenham (Mrs.), died 13th April, 1802.				
Hannah Sydenham, died 23rd Feb., 1806.				

¹ The original entry is amusing: 'Received of Madame Pudsey of alle arares that wase be hind be louning to the Alms house to this daye.'

² Paid Mrs. Mary Pudsey at her need 2s., lodging and small drink to Mr. Brown for 1s. for twenty-two weeks, £1 2s. 0d. Spent when Mr. Turrill and I went to him, John Scarsbrook, to carry away Mrs. Pudsey, 8d.

³ Upcott's collections for Oxford-

shire, MSS. in British Museum. John Sydenham of Dulverton was possibly third son of Humphrey S. of Coombe. See Burke's Extinct Baronetage, p. 517. He had a bastard son known as James Miller, who was kept by the parish until he was eleven years old, when he was apprenticed to one Keene a shoemaker at Handbro'. The papers between the parish and the father were signed at Dulverton.

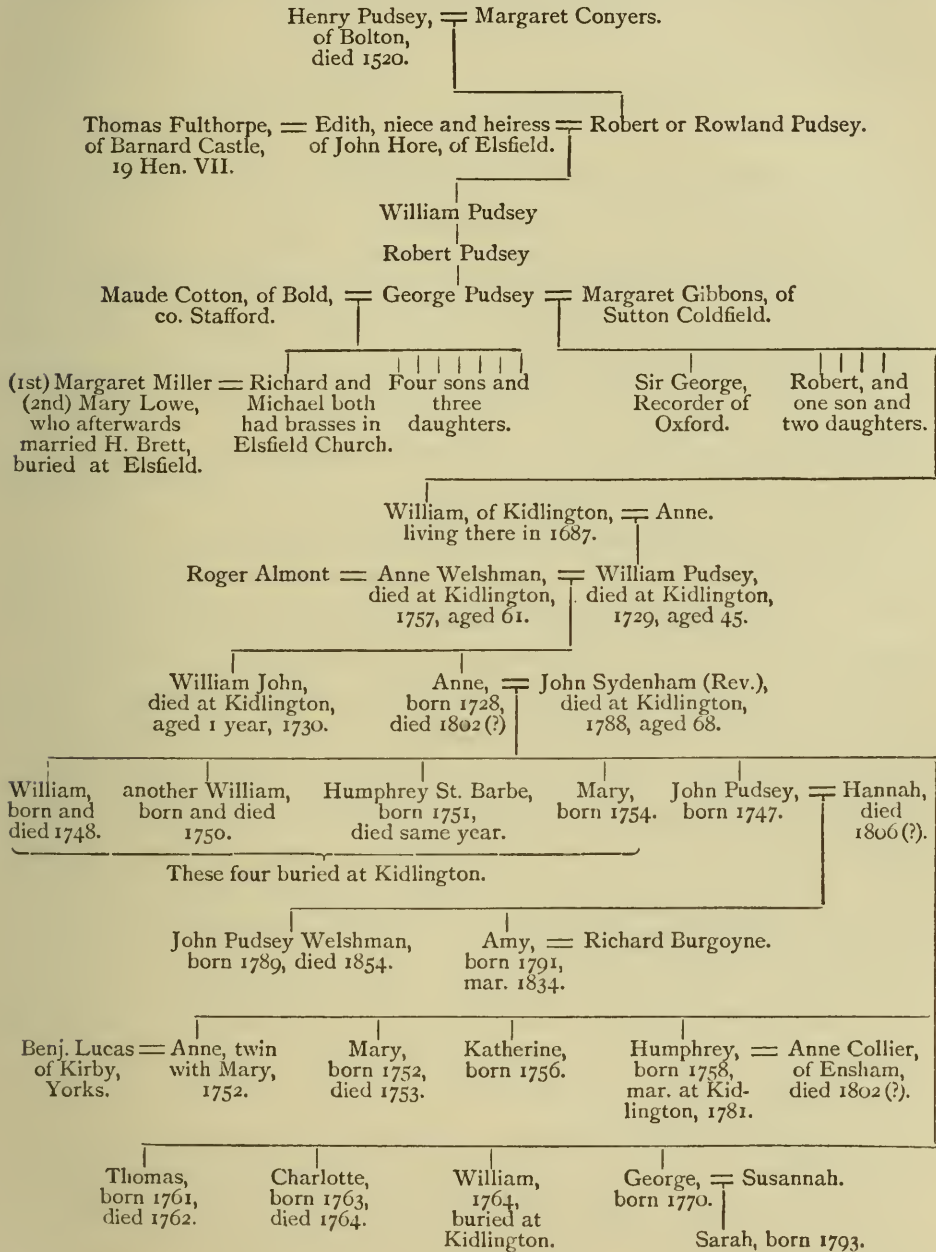


PEDIGREE OF PUDSEY OF ELSFIELD AND KIDLINGTON.

ARMS.

Quarterly:—1st, argent, a chevron between three mullets or, *Pudsey*; 2nd, sable, three cinquefoils gules pierced argent, *Hore*; 3rd, argent, two bars nebulé sable, *Ellesfield*; 4th, gules, a fret or, within a bordure of the last, charged with fleurs-de-lys azure.

This pedigree made out from Harleian Society vol. 5, from Foster's Yorkshire Families, and the latter portion, referring to Sydenham, from the Parish Register.



CHAPTER VII.

I.—THE MANOR OF WATER EATON.

THE Lordship of Eton in the Domesday Survey is divided into two parts: one in the hands of Robert d'Oiley, about which we are concerned; the other belonging to Roger d'Ivry, which probably is represented by Wood Eaton. In the grant of this manor to Osney Abbey, Eton includes Sparswey, that portion adjoining the river where a foot bridge exists, and 'Frees' farm, which lies between the Oxford and Banbury and the Woodstock roads¹. 'Frees or Frice' farm has always continued as a separate holding and a chapel was formerly there, the history of which is apparently lost. Wood records nothing more than a shepherd's hut in his day, and at present the only sign of antiquity about the buildings is a very deep, ancient well. The Bailiwick of Eton under the Abbey included 'Eton, Carsinton, Wodeton, Hule Mill, Cudeslowe, Fres, Hanbury, Worton².'

It will be remarked that Henry d'Oiley gave the manor to the Abbey of Osney 'free from all service,' but in 1350 when Thomas de Cudlington was Abbot, this freedom seems to have been called in question, and after an enquiry held upon the subject, it was declared that 'the Abbot held Eton upon the service of two knight's fees.' A certain portion of the manor had been given by Henry d'Oiley to John Grey, Bishop of Norwich, and we find his father Arnold Grey styled Lord of Water Eaton. Whatever their rights and possessions may have been, they all seem to have merged in the holdings of the Abbey which held the whole until the dissolution of the Monastery.

Circa 1221. The mill had been excluded from the gift to Osney, and Henry d'Oiley made it over to the church of St. Frideswide's in Oxford.

1228. In this year a disagreement arose between these two religious houses upon this matter. The tenant in the Mill was one named Robert

¹ See page I.

² Chartulary of Osney.

Hule, Richard Grey was Abbot of Osney and Simon, Prior of St. Frideswide's. The dispute had reference to the tithes of hay and the fishing belonging to the said Mill. It was finally agreed that the Canons of St. Frideswide's should pay 2*s.* yearly at Michaelmas to the Canons of Osney for tithes; while the mills were let, then the tenant should pay, and if they came again into the hands of the Canons the payment should continue as before, and no more under the name of tithes should be asked of them. Furthermore it was stipulated that the servants of the said mills should have parish rights in the church of Kidlington to which they had been accustomed. This matter is stated in the Deed as follows:—

'Simon, Prior, and the convent of St. Frideswide quit claim to the Abbot and convent of Osney the suit of their tenants (*hominum*) in Eton and Cuddelowe now and for ever, which suit they are accustomed to make from ancient times to their mill which was called Hule Mill. For this renunciation the *sd.* Abbot and convent remit 2*s.* for certain tithes in Elsfield and also pay to them $\frac{1}{2}$ a mark of silver on the feast of St. Michael yearly. Witness—Vivian the son of Ralph the Sheriff. Ralph Hareng and others¹.'

It is worth remarking that after all mention of the Mill had ceased 'the two little meadows and the pasture called Cuddyslowe²,' which probably mark its site, are separately valued to the Abbey. The taxation of the manor in 1291 was £11 4*s.* 8*d.*, which had increased in Henry VIII's reign to £61 17*s.* 2*d.*

1346. The Bailiff of this manor was Robert of Tewe. He has left an account for this year still legible. In 1348 Alice Mimican³ of Oxford bequeathed to Thomas Nextebury of Water Eaton a house in St. Mildred's parish, and in 1349 Thomas Nextebury gave to Osney Abbey some premises he held in St. Edward's parish⁴.

1365. Edward III in the 39th of his reign gave Free Warren to Osney in the manors of Water Eaton, &c.⁵

1376. The portion of land belonging to St. Frideswide's was probably exchanged about this time for land elsewhere. In Tanner's *Monasticon*, under the head of St. Frideswide's, we read—

¹ 443 Oxford Charters, Bodleian Lib.

² See p. 34.

³ Peter Mimican and his son Philip were keepers of the forest of Shotover, and had Headington forest. Roger had a house at the North Gate of Oxford, and Alice one near the East Gate. Wood-Clark, vol. 1, pp. 282, 338,

525, 528.

⁴ Thomas Nextebury appears among the list of Oxford Jews in Dr. Neubauer's 'Notes,' in *Collec.* vol. 2, Oxford Historical Soc.

⁵ Dugdale's *Mon.*, vol. 6. pt. 1, p. 250.

'Pat. 50 Ed. III, p. 2, sec. 23—pro excambio cum Abbate de Oseney de Terris in Godstowe et *Eton*,' and in Dugdale 'pro excambio cum Priore S. Frideswide de terris in Godstowe, Thoraldesham et *Eton* ¹.'

1384-5. The name of the Bailiff of this estate dwelling here we find to have been Geoffrey Hikefelde. He and his wife Joan paid an assessment upon the house and two virgates of land². A few years later Alice Frankelyne quit claimed to John Haumlo and Alice his wife, all her rights in all lands, fields, &c., which were her husband's, Adam Frankelyne, at Water Eaton³.

An annual pension of £13 6s. 8d. was due from this manor⁴ to the Brethren of St. John of Jerusalem. The house at Gosford was the usual place for receiving such rents and dues from the neighbouring places.

1534. We have no further notice of Water Eaton until we come to this year, when the curious correspondence between Thomas Cromwell and John the Abbot took place⁵. Cromwell never got the coveted farm, for at the suppression of the Monastery we find it transferred to the new Bishopric of Osney⁶. Upon the change of the new See for that of Oxford, Water Eaton and Frise remained in the King's hands, who in the 37th year of his reign

1545-6 granted them by Deed to William Burye, Merchant of Calais. The grant included several places which do not concern us here, and was in exchange for the Manor of Calehill in Kent, (in the Isle of Sheppey), and for £600 in cash. As follows—

'We⁷ grant our Manor of Culham and Ottenmead and Water Eaton and our lands and tithes there in occupation of John Crooker and the pasture called Cuddeslowe and two meadows in Water Eaton held by John Denet and that pasture called Fryce in Water Eaton and occupied by Edmund Powell; and Water Eaton Grove and other woods which of late belonged to the Bishoprick of Osney; all granted to William Burye. Annual value £106 1s. 1½d.; the tenth of which also given to him as held by the Abbot of Abingdon and the Bishoprick of Osney; reserving advowsons and Patronage.'

¹ P. 416 of Tanner; Dugdale, u.s. This is also mentioned in Charter 445 in Bodley (Oxford Charters).

² P. M. Inq., 8 Rich. II.

³ Oxford Charters, 490 and 523, 444 and 447.

⁴ The Court Rolls for Eton, Cuddeslowe and Kidlington, about the year 1357, are to be seen in Bodley, Oxford

Charters, 445-446, and Rolls 14, 105, 106, 112.

⁵ See p. 31.

⁶ The manors of Water Eaton, Medley, Hooknorton and Watlington were settled upon the new See. See Wood-Clark, vol. 2, p. 6.

⁷ This deed is in the Archives of Exeter Coll.

1559-60. Shortly after this, in the second year of Elizabeth we find a suit in Chancery entered between Thomas Berry son of John Berry and two defendants, claiming settlement as heirs-at-law, and proving that John Berry, Esq., the Plaintiff's father, held the Manor of the Crown by Knight's service and rent reserved by letters patent of £51 14s.¹

1568-9. A few years later 11th and 15th Elizabeth, the house seems to have been let to one of the Taverners of Wood Eaton; his name is returned in both years as William Taverner of Water Eaton, High Sheriff².

It was some time in the next twenty years that the family of Frere became owners of Water Eaton. The date upon the present mansion is 1586 (over an inner door), and we learn incidentally from the report of a trial in 1596 that 'Mr. Frere destroyed the whole town of Water Eaton³.' The inference may be drawn that upon his acquisition of the property, Mr. Frere set about building a new house, and pulled down the cottages to make way for his 'dressed grounds.'

The family of Frere had long been settled in Oxfordshire in the position of gentry; and they owned much property in Oxford. One of the family settled in Worcester and acquired wealth as a corn chandler. In the reign of Henry V, we find license granted to Geoffrey Frere to export grain, &c., from Bristol for the victualling of Bordeaux⁴, from this we may probably suppose that the family adopted the ears of barley in their coat of arms.

1596. The 38th Elizabeth we read in the Records of the City of Oxford that—

'It is agreed⁵ at this counsell that Mr. Frere, now High Sheriff of this county, shall have a hoggeshead of claret bestowed upon him against the next Assizes, at the Citie's charge.' July 11th.

1620. Edward Frere was of sufficient importance at this time to be called upon to take up the new dignity of Baronet upon the 1st January this year. A discharge for the payment of the usual fees was given him upon the following 12th July, to the amount of £1095⁶.

¹ Proceedings in Chancery, Eliz. Vol. 1, p. 84. Plaintiff, Thomas Berry, Esq., defendants, Read Stafford and Ed. Wilmot and Eliz. his wife.

² Fuller's Worthies.

³ See page 61.

⁴ Calendar of French Rolls, 9 Hen.

V, March 16. 44th Rep. of Dep. Keeper of Records, p. 634.

⁵ From Mr. Wing's Annals of Kidlington. p. 21.

⁶ Calendar of State Papers, Domestic 1619 to 1623, p. 164.

The title expired with Sir Edward in 1630.

About this time the Bishop of Oxford made an attempt to recover this Manor to his See.

Petition presented to the King on behalf of Bishop Bancroft :—

‘Whereas it hath pleased your Majestie upon a petition of the Right Revd. Lord Bishop of Oxford to refer unto us the examinacion of a cause between him and the possessors of Water Eaton we have accordingly heard the Counsell on both side, from whom we understand that the Mannor of Water Eaton is now claimed by an original graunt from King Hen. 8th to one Burye who paid for the same about £600. And whereas Water Eaton was formerlie in the Bishoppe of Oxford it was ptended to be then in the Kinge by a surrender from the saide Bushoppe. But upon debatinge the cause the Counsell on both side doe acknowledge that Water Eaton was not made ouer to King Henry by that surrender whereby it appeereth that the conveyance thereof to Burye upon that surrender was to noe effect.

‘But that there was afterwards in the 1st year of King Edward 6th another surrender ptended to be made from the Bushoppe to the Crowne by the which though very suspicious and full defect alsoe yet as it is admitted by the Counsell of both side the title of Water Eaton thereby is now brought to be in your Majestie for since that time there hath bin noe conveyance thereof made from the Crowne whereby it appeereth that at the only suite and chardge of the Bishop of Oxford Burye his title is overthrowne and another title to your Majtie discovered.

‘The title in this manner beinge thus settled in your Majestie by the Bushoppe’s meanes Water Eaton now remaineth to be disposed of as shall best please your Majestie.

‘The possessors of Water Eaton desire consideracion to be had of the first conveyance from the Crowne for a reasonable valuacion and of the meane conveyance obteyned with their money and alsoe ther longe possession and the rather for that the Busshoppe (as they alledge) had a reasonable recompence for all that was surrendered in King Edward’s tyme.

‘The Bushoppe denyinge that any such recompence in respect of Water Eaton his Pallace and his Manner house of Thame, &c., was ever made to the Bushoppe alsoe desireth your Majestie’s favour both in respect of his great chardge for that he only hath by suite excluded the wronge title of Bury and discovered suche a title to your Majestie and in regard to the B(ishoprick) wherein that was first founded and never rightlie taken from it he humblie praieth that consideracion be had to the cause of the Church ever thought to be most favourablie respected especiallie in soe eminent a place as that Universitie is and there erected by authoritie of pliant (Parliament?) for the publicke good of most waightie cause and that alsoe by the increase of the B(ishopricke) besides manie other commodities the Crowne is like to have most profit for that it is the King’s gift who is thereby to reape a greater profit by increase of first Fruits, tenths and subsidies besides the great beneficial offers that to the good of the University Citty

and Country the Bushoppe offereth by the helpe of this manner should your Majestie redoue (reendow?) it to the Bishoppe which is now omitted the like occasion maie never or hardlie fall hereafter.

‘And for that the first conveyance of Water Eaton to Bury was made uppon a false suggestion that the title was in the King uppon the first surrender which now cleerlie proveth otherwise and that the first consideration given by Bury beinge but about £600 which was nothing proportionable to the value of Water Eaton now beinge worth 2000 Mark by the yere and to be soulede at £30,000 and consideringe that the now possessors¹ under £1000 for the purchase of the mannor as the deed thereof sheweth and all readie they have gotten therby about £30,000.

‘And for that they ever stood uppon ther owne right, traversinge your Majestie’s title as appeareth by Records to be more (relied?) uppon than anie privat relation, and for that they never sought ane favour by the Commissioners for defective titles, till the Bushoppe by his great chardges had discovered your Majestie’s title, havinge bin driven thereto by necessity of house land and maintenance competent, and by conscience to complaine to your Majestie uppon the s^d wronge, and (in the) Comfort of your Majesties most gracious promises often as he saithe formerlie made unto him.

‘The Bishoppe humblie therefore praieth that he and the Bishoppricke may rather be favoured by your Majestie than the new possessors of Water Eaton havinge noe just title or anie title at all thereunto but onlie ther over longe wronge usurpation. Thuse havinge declared the state of the cause and allegacions of the parties wee humblie leave to your highness the disposing of your gracious favour in this Manner of Water Eaton as God shall move the hart of your most excellent Majestie².’

The Bishop did not prosecute this matter any further, but built his Palace at Cuddesdon and we read further:—

‘Dr. Brown Willis was told that Dr. Bancroft received £100 a year to stop his proceedings about the recovery of Water Eaton Manor to the See of Oxford, which he was attempting³.’

Evidence exists that Water Eaton house had been let to Sir Thomas Temple of Stowe. An enquiry concerning rent was made in 1611, William Fryer being the plaintiff⁴.

Sir Thomas Temple deserves notice on account of his wife Esther Sandys, who lived according to trustworthy evidence to see 700 of her descendants. The truth of this statement is attested by Dr. Fuller who tells us that he bought the information by a wager thereon.

The mother of the Speaker Lenthall and the wife of Dr. Standard

¹ ? gave.

² Tanner, cxlvii. . . . 77.

³ Brown Willis, Cathed., vol. 3, p. 553

⁴ Calendar of Exchequer Depositions, James I, Dep. Keeper of Records, 38th Report, p. 587.

of Kidlington were her daughter and grand-daughter; the last survivor of this numerous family was a daughter of Sir Henry Gibbs of Ilmington, co. Warwick, she died in 1737¹. Sir Thomas Temple's son-in-law, Sir John Lenthal, built a house at Custslow of which notice will be taken later on.

The history of the Lovelace family whose name has given the charm of romance to Water Eaton must form the subject of another section.

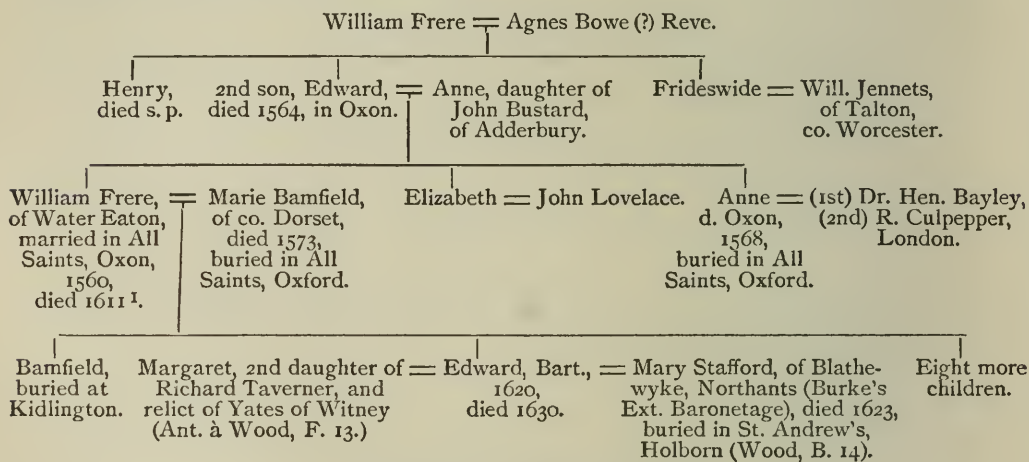
PEDIGREE OF FRERE OR FRYER, OF WATER EATON.

ARMS.

Or, two flanches and three barley ears gules, counter-changed between two billets of the second.

This pedigree is compiled from Harl. MS., British Museum, and Wood's MS. F. 13, Bod. Lib.

Geoffrey Frere, of Worcester, temp. Hen. V; William, Philip, and John Frere, 12th Hen. VI, gentry in Oxfordshire (Fuller's Worthies).



¹ See Peshall's Wood, under All Saints.

In Wood MS. D. 5 will be found the register of all this family. In the same book, under St. Aldate's, occurs the following marriage: 'Richard Saunders, of Kidlington, to Elizabeth Fryer, 6th Oct. 1610.' Also under All Saints, 'Thomas Brace, Generosus, to Francisca Fryer, 1588.'

'William, son of Edward Fryer,' was baptized in Kidlington, 1596. He probably died young, as the Baronetcy became extinct upon the death of Sir Edward in 1630.

¹ Playfair's British Family Antiquity, vol. 2, p. 463.

From Kidlington Register, probably for Water Eaton :—

‘Elizabeth, wife of Roger Temple, buried 1587.’

‘Roger Temple, widdower, buried 1597.’

‘Thomas, son of Thomas Temple, buried 1624.’

II.—FREES OR FRICE FARM, OR THE FRIEZES.

Frice farm or the Friezers lies

‘in the midway between Wolvercote and Yarnton and joining to the horse rode on the right hand, here are certaine grounds of pasture called Frice in the parish, as I conceive, of Kidlington¹.’

So it is described by Wood in one of his country rambles, and he goes on elsewhere to say that there had once been a chapel here, but in his day nothing more remained besides a shepherd’s hut. At the present time there stands a modern farm house, and the only remains of antiquity is the ancient well sunk to a great depth, owing doubtless to the Oxford clay which runs here in a narrow spit, into Kidlington village. This place can boast of a separate history, and a well-known name ever since the day when Robert d’Oiley gave it to the church² of St. George and Henry d’Oiley included it in his gift to Osney Abbey. Richard, Earl of Cornwall, confirmed to Osney all that Adam Potario held at Fres :—

‘My chapel of Frees with the manse and the land to hold free from all jurisdiction of other courts, except for murder and theft³.’

It seems reasonable to derive the name from one of the following sources :—

‘The chapel of Frees’ may signify a ‘Free chapel’ from the jurisdiction of the Bishop, or else the land may have obtained its name from ‘Friscus,’ uncultivated land, or ‘Frassetum,’ a wood (in Domesday), or else ‘Frith,’ a plain between two woods. The Saxon word Frith signifying Peace was used also for a wood, as the Saxons held several woods to be ‘Sanctuaries⁴,’ hence the chapel here may have been a place of ‘Sanctuary.’ In Domesday Robert d’Oiley is said to hold in Eton 3½ hides which never paid tax. Walter de Croxford held land opposite to the Chapel of Frees which he gave to the Abbey, and the same land appears to have been made over to Rewley Abbey, and

¹ Wood, E. I. and also in another MS. He quotes from Reg. of Osney in Ch. Ch., p. 14, cap. vel. tit. 17.

² Chartulary of Osney.

³ See page 3.

⁴ Cowel’s Law Dictionary.

this must have formed that portion of Frice which now lies in the parish of Yarnton¹.

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry VIII Fryce is valued at £6 13s. as a member of the Manor of Water Eaton. The tenant at that time was John Mawnde². A few years later it was included in the grant or sale of Water Eaton to William Burye³ of Calais. Edmund Powell, probably the same as of Sandford then rented it.

'1662. Dec. 24th. Thomas Claydon of Frise in the parish of Kidlington. He appeared and humbly petitioned for absolution, affirming that he was unjustly persecuted for a Jew, nor did he ever hold any Jewish opinions. Hence he was dismissed and absolved⁴.'

We have no further notice of this farm until 1821 when it was declared to be exempt from tax at the time when an enquiry was made by Exeter College, relating to tithes and divers rights in Water Eaton and Gosford. It had become alienated from Water Eaton after the death of Lady Wentworth⁵, and was at length purchased by Exeter College from Colonel Fuller of London in 1863. The total cost, including expenses (£171 and timber), was £6340 10s. 2d., and the rent at that time, £230 per annum, slightly raised during the next ten years, now much reduced.

III.—LORD LOVELACE AT WATER EATON.

The connection of the Lovelace family with Water Eaton begins remotely with the marriage of Elizabeth Frere with John Lovelace, of Hurley. Shortly after we are told that 'Sir Edward Frere sold Water Eaton to the Lovelaces⁶'.

Richard, the first Baron Lovelace, was raised to the Peerage in 1627; he was in residence at Water Eaton in 1636, and that year we read that he was found to be £12 in arrears for 'Ship Money⁷', a tax which bore an important part in the subsequent quarrel between the King and the Parliament.

John Lovelace, the second baron, strongly supported the Royal cause against the Rebellion which followed, and sacrificed a large

¹ Osney Chartulary, p. 43. See History of Yarnton.

² Page 34.

³ Page 105.

⁴ From Court books of Bishop of Oxford. Turner MS. Top., vol. 15, Oxon C. 56. In Bodleian. For this

person see History of Yarnton.

⁵ See Ped. of Lovelace.

⁶ Harleian Soc. Publications, vol. 5.

⁷ Cal. of State Papers, Domestic, 1639, p. 229.

portion of his personal property to the King's interest. He married Anne, the daughter of Lord Cleveland, one of the King's generals, who defeated the Roundheads at Cropredy Bridge. Her ladyship was exposed to considerable annoyance from this party from a desire of revenge for the defeat they had experienced at the hands of her father. In September, 1644, Lord Lovelace being probably away in Cornwall with the King, a party of Parliament troopers having amused themselves by disturbing the congregation in Wolvercote Church, suddenly turned across 'the field,' and presented themselves before the house at Water Eaton. Here they summoned Lady Lovelace to attend them, and bringing out her carriage forced her into it, and drove off to Middleton Stoney, where they left her to return home on foot¹.

A tradition still exists that King Charles found a refuge in the Manor House at Water Eaton from his enemies. There is no improbability in this, as the King was frequently in Oxford during these times, and the known devotion of the family to him would render the idea of his concealment in their house most natural. At the same time, there does not appear to be any confirmation of the fact, and the hiding hole shown in the house might have been used for a different purpose².

The connection between the two parishes of Wood and Water Eaton seems to have been much closer in the seventeenth century than it is at present. We have seen that the Taverner family held both places, and doubtless they had a convenient means of communication. The ruins of a bridge of cut stones, now lying in the river, seem to show that this was the case, and such a bridge would probably be destroyed in 1644, when Essex's army occupied the east bank of the river previous to the fight at Gosford Bridge.

At the conclusion of the Civil War, Lord Lovelace, impoverished in fortune, retired to the Gate House at Woodstock Palace³, which had been spared from the general destruction of the royal buildings, he compounded for his estates, and declared that

'he was Tenant for life of the Manor of Water Eaton and certaine lands in Water Eaton, Kidlington, Wood Eaton, and Cherwell (*sic*) worth before these warres £1000, but lying within three miles of Oxford now not worth

¹ Dunkin's Bullingdon and Ploughley, vol. 2, p. 60. Lady Lovelace was at this time twenty-one years of age.

² This may have been constructed for the concealment of a Catholic priest. In the Parish Register in 1600 is re-

corded the death of 'Old Father Moore of Water Eaton,' possibly an old priest living in retirement.

³ Marshall's History of Woodstock, p. 232.

anything, wherof reserved upon leases for three lives £18 10s. 0d. I have but one son and if he dye and I have no other son, then the remainder of all my property, after my mother's death and my own, goes to my brother, and I owe £8000 at the least besides Interests for 4 years for the same. John Lovelace¹.

He lived at Woodstock for ten years after the King's restoration, and died in 1670. His own house at Water Eaton, during the Commonwealth, seems to have been inhabited by his father-in-law, Lord Cleveland. Forty years later the question arose concerning this tenancy as to whether Lord Cleveland were to be considered in the light of a tenant or of a guest². This was probably at the time when the affairs of the third Lord Lovelace³ were brought before Parliament for settlement. Seven years after his father's death, viz., in 1677, an Act of Parliament was passed enabling Lord Lovelace to raise money for the settlement of his daughters and for the jointure of the Lady Martha, his wife, as follows:—

'The late John, Lord Lovelace, contracted debts to the amount of £20,000 in the service of King Charles 1st and suffered much in his property; and the present Lord Lovelace joined him in the sale of the greater parts of the estates and otherwise supplied his father with money by doing which he contracted debts of upwards £5000. This bill settles the Manor of Hurley upon Lady Martha and charges the said lands with £15,000 instead of £10,000 payable as portions to his daughters. It also confirms £3000 to Henry Drax (his son-in-law) upon the Manor of Water Eaton by annual instalments of £500 a year, after the death of Anne, Lady Lovelace. Power is given to Lord Lovelace to sell or mortgage such portions of Hurley and the reversion of Water Eaton, for raising £5000, which are not included in Lady Martha's jointure⁴.'

During his residence in Woodstock, Lord Lovelace proved himself a benefactor to the town. He built the gallery in the church there, which is used by the Mayor and Corporation, and proposed to found

¹ Royalist Comp. Papers, 2nd series, vol. 7, pp. 213 and 195. Record Office.

² 'Cause of Lady Wentworth, &c. Trial as to the sojourn of Lord Lovelace and his wife, Lady Anne, at Tuddington, also Lord Cleveland at Water Eaton and Hurley, whether as "guests" or to pay.' Fortieth Report, Deputy Keeper of Records, p. 295, 29th Charles II.

³ 'John Lovelace, only son of 2nd Baron Lovelace; matriculated 1655; M.A. 1661. Rose for the Prince of

Orange, 1688. Imprisoned at Gloucester. Captain of Gentlemen Pensioners 1688, and Chief Justice in Eyre of all his Majesty's Forests on this side of Trent. Died 27 Sep., 1693. Donor of plate to the College, and his portrait by Marcus Laroon hangs in the Hall.' Gardiner's Register of Wadham College.

⁴ Report of Royal Commission on historical MSS., Ninth Report, pt. 2, p. 92, 1883; also see printed report in Calendar of Committee, for Compounding, pt. 2, p. 1188.

an alms-house, which was to have been endowed out of the rents of Lowfield in Water Eaton¹. This idea does not seem to have been carried out, and there are no proofs or traditions that such an endowment was ever effected.

Ten years later, in 1688, Lord Lovelace took part against the King, James II, and was several times arrested for political intrigues. When the Prince of Orange landed in England, Lovelace raised a troop of horse from among his tenantry, and marched into Gloucestershire. A sharp conflict took place at Cirencester, and Lovelace was taken and imprisoned in Gloucester Castle. The townsmen, however, sympathised with the Prince of Orange, and rising up, demanded the release of Lovelace, who returned to Oxford, marching with the remnant of his men past Water Eaton, and entering the City by Wadham College, Long Wall Street, the East gate, upon the 5th December of the same year². King William rewarded his zeal in his cause and appointed him Captain of Pensioners.

The family must have made Water Eaton their dwelling frequently during this period. The date upon the porch of the house is 1688, and an entry in the parish register in 1690³ shows probably that they were there in that year. Lady Anne survived her son, who died in 1693, leaving an only daughter, Martha, who, upon the death of her grandmother, became Baroness Wentworth. She married Sir Henry Johnson, Bart., of Fliston⁴, co. Suffolk, who made his money as a ship builder. After the death of Lady Wentworth without issue the Water Eaton property passed to the two grand-daughters of her husband by his first marriage. The voting papers for the year 1754 are sufficient evidence for this.

The following names of some of the inhabitants of Water Eaton in 1285 are mentioned in vol. 18 of Oxford Historical Society, 1891, Thorold Rogers, p. 209:—‘Richard Doitby, Richard Ops, John Banks, Robert Chaunter, Walter Cha.’

¹ ‘John, Lord Lovelace, a rent charge of £50 out of a field in Water Eaton called “Low field,” to the Corporation of Woodstock.’ Report of Charity Commissioners, p. 498. Marshall’s Woodstock, p. 233.

² A ballad commemorating this event was written by John Smith of Magd.

Coll. in nineteen stanzas. It is to be found in 2nd part of ‘Miscellany Poems,’ published by Dryden, London, 4th ed., 1716, p. 198.

³ ‘The Lady Luffis maid buried.’ Reg.

⁴ Burke’s Ex. Peerage and Rawlinson MS.

PEDIGREE OF LOVELACE OF WATER EATON.

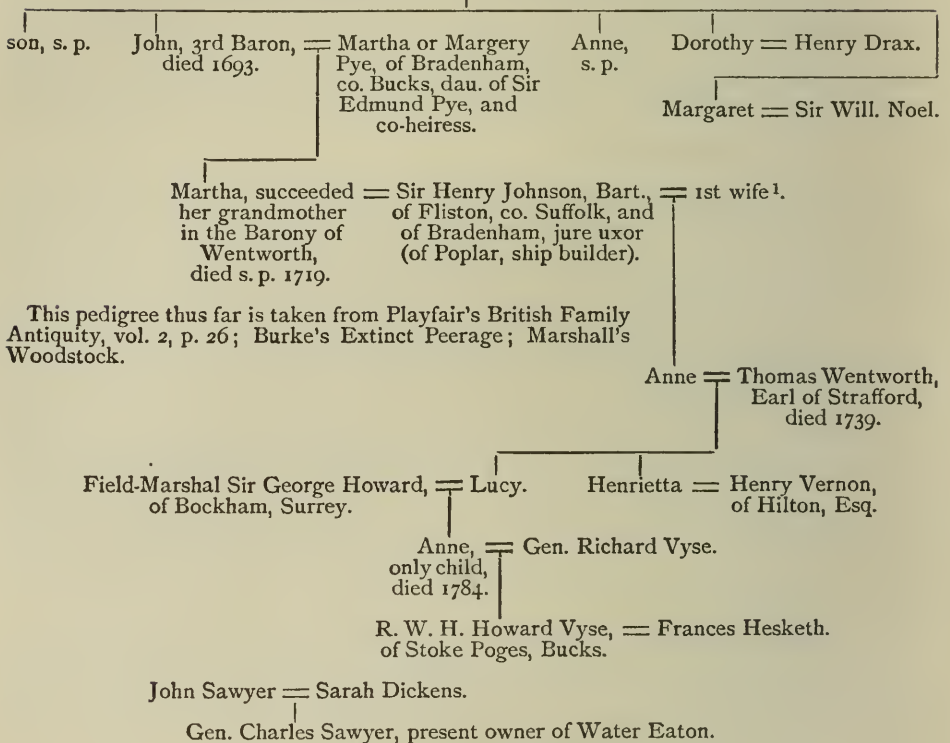
ARMS.

Gules, upon a chief sable indented, three birds.

Elizabeth Frere = John Lovelace, of Hurley (Harleian MS.)

Richard Lovelace, of Hurley, = Margaret Dodsworth,
created Baron, 1627. of London.

Lady Anne Wentworth, = John, 2nd Baron,
dau. of Earl of Cleveland, of Water Eaton,
married in 1638, aged 15. died 1670.



¹ Burke's Extinct Peerage and Landed Gentry.

At the great Election, 1754, Sir G. Howard voted for Water Eaton, and Mr. H. Vernon for Frice farm.

Colonel Fuller sold Frice to Exeter College in 1863.

CHAPTER VIII.

I.—SOME ACCOUNT OF THRUP.

THIS place is mentioned in Domesday under the name of Trop, no doubt a French form of the English word Thorpe. It was part of the lands of Roger d'Ivry, and was held by the son of Wadard. Wadard was an officer of great importance in the Norman army, and held lands in six counties in England. He is portrayed in the Bayeux tapestry busy with the supplies for the troops. Before the Normans came Thrup belonged to Stigand the Archbishop, and was held by his man Leuui. Whatever spiritual jurisdiction Stigand may have previously held here, notwithstanding, upon the readjustment of affairs after the Conquest, Thrup was annexed to Kidlington, and as part of the same parish they both depended upon the Abbey of Osney in all ecclesiastical matters. In the Great Charter of Robert d'Oiley we find that he gave to the Abbey '*Et duas partes decimae de omni re quae decimari solet . . . et de Cudlington, Thorpe, Wythull, Hensinton, and Northleya*'¹.

In temporal affairs Thrup did not owe allegiance to the same lord with Kidlington until the fifteenth century, at which time they became united under Chaucer. At one period we are told that the village only consisted of five houses², but the list of names in the Hundred Rolls and the foundations of buildings still existing in the fields show that it must have considerably decreased. There seems to have been a division of the land in Thrup from very early times between the Abbey of Osney and the Honours of Wallingford and St. Wallery, both of which Honours were, at the date when the list in the Hundred Rolls was drawn up, in the hands of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, brother to the King. Ralph de Hareng was Steward to the Earl, and Halewisa de Hareng owned one yard land in Thrup, near Kidlington.

¹ Dugdale, vol. 6, pt. 1, p. 252.

² Dr. Symonds' MSS.

‘Walcheline Hareng gave to the Abbey of Ensham 2 virgates of land in Horton, in exchange for 2 given by his mother *Helewise* to the Abbey, one in *Throp* and the other in Woodeton¹.’

Inq. Post Mortem, Hen. III, vol. 1, p. 42 :—

‘Nicholas de Haversham, Throp maner, Oxon.

Page 59. ‘Robert Freytwell released Godstow from suits of Courtward, &c., the which they ought in regard of half a knight’s Fee that they held of Stephen Freytwell his father and of Sir John Browne in Karsington and Thorpe.’

Page 101. ‘Sir Jordan of Aldswell Parson of Wyndindon gave unto Godstow all his lands in Karsington and Thorpe, &c.’ No date.

‘The said Jordan of Aldswell Parson of Wyndindon released the house of Godstow of £200 which it was bound to pay him by obligation for lands he sold them in Karsington and Thorpe.’ A. D. 1272.

‘Richard by the Grace of God King of Romans alway Emperor (? Semper Augustus) confirmed to Godstow the gift and selling which Jordan Aldswell made them of lands in Karsington and Thorpe. Dated at Beckley 22nd Feby., 13th year of our reign².’

3 Edward I :—

‘Geoffrey de Leukenore and John de Metingham were appointed to take, the assize of novel disseizen arraigned by Matilda, late wife of William Fuk’, against John Fitz Fulk and others concerning a tenement in Thrup³.’

The same case was again brought up for trial four years later⁴.

Inq. Post Mortem, 21 Edward I, vol. 1, p. 118 :—

‘John le Frankeleyne—Wodestoke 2 burgarii; Throp una virgat’ et dimid. terrae.’

Inq. Post Mortem, 28 Edward I, vol. 1, p. 162 :—

Fees belonging to St. Walery. ‘Thorp juxta Cudlington 2 partes feod.’

Inq. Post Mortem, 34 Edward I, vol. 1, p. 206 :—

‘Jacobus de la Plaunche et Matilda uxor ejus Haversham, Bucks Throp 2 virgat’ cum 60 acres terrae; 5 ac’ prati et 15^s 2^d redd, de St. Walerici honor.’

9 Edward II :—

‘Joh’es de Mymmes finen fecit cum R per decem libros pro licencia habendi qd ipse et Johanna uxor ejus de quibusdam terr’ in Throp’ et

¹ White Kennet, p. 140.

² More’s collection; for Godstow, p. 266.

Gough, Oxon, 18.

³ 44th Report of Dep. K. of Records, p. 266.

⁴ 48th Report, p. 187.

Cudelynton q &c feoffare possint Will de Newenton cappellanum et Will de Broughton cappellanum hēnd, &c.' Rot. 22; Rotulorum Originalium, p. 230.

Extract from the Hundred Rolls, vol. 2, p. 853. Throp. Honour of St. Walery:—

‘Freemen (Lib’ri).

‘Fulk le Frankelyn holds freely in the same honour 1 virgate of land and 5 acres plough, and 1 cottage for 5^s, doing such service and royalties as pertain to so much land.

‘John the Miller holds one mill with the third part of the fishing on the banks of the Cherwell which extends the whole length of the Field of Thrup.

‘John de Haversham holds a third part of the above-named town which is of the aforesaid honour, from John Brun and Richard de Fretwelle and the same John from the Earl of Cornwall, and from King, &c.

‘Nicholas Lilie from the same John, holds 1 virgate of land in villenage for 15^s a year, working and redeeming his holding, &c.

‘Matilda Boveton, Matilda the widow of Ralph, Alice the widow of Simon, Alice of Cogges, Juliana Smat, Agnes Testrix, all on the same terms as above.

‘Fulk Franklyne (Lib’i) holds from the same 1 virgate of land for 3 shillings and 8^d, paying his court and doing service for all his serfs.

‘John the Miller holds 3^d part of one virgate and one mill on the same terms, and the same John holds in demesne 3 virgates except 5 acres of land.’

Throp:—

‘Nicholas of Kingstone¹ holds the third part of the town of Thrup from John Brown of Norton which he has of the gift of the same John and the same John holds of the Earl of Cornwall and the same Earl holds of the King in capite of the Honour of St. Walery; doing service at the court of North Oseney from three weeks to three weeks, and doing such royal service as pertains to the third part of a knight’s fee—where the same Nicholas holds in demesne three virgates all but five acres of land with the adjacent pasture belonging to it.’

Serfs.

‘Adam the Palmer holds from the same Nicholas a virgate in villenage for 3^s. a year, working and redeeming his children at the will of the same Nicholas.

‘Alice the relict of John, Thomas Young, Will Lorens, Laurence Fitz-Hugh, Robert Allwynne, Alice the widow of Simon, all hold under the same terms.’

Cottagers.

‘Matilda Freeman holds of the same one cottage in villenage, working and redeeming, &c., &c.’

¹ Probably Nicholas of Kingstone Bagpuze, Mayor of Oxford.

Calendarium Inquisitiones ad quod damnum, 2 Edward III, p. 223:—

‘Johanne de Olneye license to let 8 messuages, 3 tofts, 7 virgates, 7 acres of meadow and 8^s 7^d in rents, in Thorpe near Cudlington, the Manor of Haversham in Bucks and the Manor of Compton in Wilts.’

Inq. Post Mortem, 12 Richard II, vol. 3, p. 110:—

‘Robertus Wyche parsona eccle’ de Hemyngton pro Abbe et Conventu de Oseneye—Thorpe et Cudlynton—6 mess’ 6 virg’ terrae, 6 ae prati et 8^s 8^d redditus ut de Sancto Walerici.’

Inq. Post Mortem, 13 Richard II, vol. 3, p. 122:—

‘Joh’es Frome de Buckingham pro Abb’e et conventu de Osenye, Throp unum messuag’ et due caruc’ terr’—Cudelinton 40^s reddit.’

16 Richard II:—

‘John Frome of Buckingham appoints Thomas Langport and Robert Purdy his attornies to deliver to the Abbot and Convent of Oseney, 6 messuages, 6 virgates of land and 6 acres of meadow, together with 1^s 7^d annual rent in Thrupp.’ Charter 440.

16 Richard II:—

‘Indenture between John Bokeland Abbot and Robert Wych parson of Hymton, Salisbury Diocese, by which the Abbot and Convent grant to Robert Wych for the term of his life all their lands and tenements in Thrupp near Kidlington; which they had of the gift of the said Robert, John Frome, and John Worton, paying at the Feast of the Nat. of St. John Baptist one rose. Charter 441¹.

Dated Osney, 8 Sep., 16 Richard II.

Inq. Post Mortem, 22 Richard II, vol. 3, p. 255:—

‘Throp maner’ ut de honore de Wallingford.’

The lands of the Earl of Cornwall after his death had been given by Edward II to his favourite, Gaveston, and upon his disgrace became the property of the Despencer family; again, upon their fall, the Honour of Wallingford fell to the King, and after all these vicissitudes the Manor of Thrup came at last into more worthy hands. Richard II, when he came to his majority, conferred several manors upon Sir Richard Abberbury², who had been the guardian of his youth, in consideration of his having spent his patrimony upon the welfare of his royal charge. Amongst these were Donnington, in Berkshire, Iffley, and Thrup. In 1385 he founded an alms-house or hospital at Donnington, and endowed it with two acres of land in that

¹ Turner and Coxe’s Cat., p. 372.

² See Marshall’s History of Iffley.

place, and with the whole Manor of Iffley, for which the King granted him letters patent. In 1388 he was expelled the Court by the discontented lords for his attachment to the King, and shortly after, in 1392, he laid the foundation of the Priory of the Holy Trinity at Donnington¹, close by his hospital. This house he endowed with lands and houses in Thrup (Kidlington) and Souldern. Upon the Inquisition taken after his death in 22 Richard II, eleven messuages, four acres, thirteen virgates of land, and twenty-nine acres of meadow were assessed to the Priory of Donnington in the same parishes². All the above property became Chaucer's³ in the following reign, and the right of presentation to the hospital, &c., descended to the Poles until their estates were finally confiscated in 1487.

The Abbot of Osney was considered as joint lord of the Manor of Thrup⁴. In 13 Richard II, 1389, a Post Mortem Inquisition shows the Abbot to have held one messuage and two carucates of land in Thrup, paying forty shillings. In Henry VIII's reign Thrup joined with Hampton Gay was valued to the Abbot as 'Firma maner,' £17 2s. 0d.⁵ At the dissolution of the monastery his tenant was Elfred Wayle. This was in all probability the land included later on in the grant of Elizabeth to Sir Wm. Petre, and by him made over to Exeter College.

We find no mention of Thrup under the Dukes of Suffolk beyond the return in the Post Mortem Inquisition, 28 Henry VI⁶, where the Duke is stated to have held

'Thrup Manor . . . 8 messuages in Thrup, 18 virgates of land, 40 acres of meadow, and 100 acres of pasture.' Walyngford Honor' membr'.

The nuns of Godstow owned two messuages in Thrup at the time of the suppression; these, with some portion of land which was then in the hands of John Chamberlain, were included in Petre's grant⁷.

¹ Tanner's *Monasticon*, under Donnington, p. 22.

² 'Ricus. Abberbury Chr pro priore de Donynton, Trop, Cudlington, et Sultherne, 11 messaug' et 13 virgat' terr' et 29 acre prati. Thrope maner ut de honore de Wallingford; Sultherne maner' Ricardus castell castrum.' P. M. Inq. 22 Ric. II, vol. 3, p. 255.

³ Chaucer seems in his own right to have had some interest in Donnington. Leland in his *Itinerary* says that they originated in Donyngton.

⁴ See p. 17.

⁵ *Valor Eccl.*, vol. 2, p. 216.

⁶ Vol. 4, p. 242.

⁷ See for Chamberlain p. 32 of this *History* and for Petre's grant, p. 35. 'King granted to Leonard Chamberlayne of Shirburne, Esq., a messuage, &c., in Hampton Poyle, the whole Manor of Gaie, &c., in Thorpe, &c. *Annals of Osney*, Gough Nicholls, 22, in *Bod. Lib.* 33 Henry VIII, 18th May.

Sir Wm. Petre sold or mortgaged a portion of land in Thrup to Sir William Babbington for the yearly payment of £5 to Exeter College from his Manor of Kiddington. (Elizabeth Babbington was baptized at Kidlington 1588¹.)

Immediately after this, Thrup must have become the property of the Brents, a family well known in Oxford and the neighbourhood during the seventeenth century, and who were to be found involved in the different religious and political movements of that restless age. The name first occurs in the Kidlington Register in 1620, and continues until 1731, at which period the manor had passed to the Langstones. Roger Brent, the last whose burial is recorded, lord of this manor, died in 1694. Another Roger, Fellow of Merton, was expelled the college in 1648 for taking the side of the King, and was subsequently readmitted, only to be finally dismissed for his disorderly and riotous living. During the Civil War, the Brents were ardent Royalists, their devotion to the King led to their ruin, and with numberless other families they were driven to compound for their estates before the Parliamentary Commissioners.

‘The delinquency of Roger Brent of Thrupp in co. Oxon, that he assigned the Forces against the Parliament. He petitioned the 20th April, 1649, that he is seized of the Manor of Thrup and lands in Kidlington, Bagbrook, Eardington, and Godstow of the yearly value of during the life of Christian Chamberlain, his mother, £5 and after her death £100 more.

‘That he is seized of the reversion in Fee during 2 lives of certain lands in Thrup £1 8s. 0d. and after those lives of £9. Do. of certain small cottages in Fee, in Thrup, yearly £3 6s. 8d.

“Particular” of the Estate. In Fee of one Capital Messuage with the lands together with one decayed Water Mill—yearly value £50. Two farms and lands £55. Reversion of 1½ yard land £1 8s. 0d. Some small tenements and commons £3 6s. 8d.

‘Yearly dues during the life of Christian Chamberlain relict of Robert Brent £100.

‘Item for 5 yeares arrears unpaid to the said Christian during the tyme the Garrison was held in Oxford, being but 3 miles distant from there, £500.

‘(He mortgaged great part of the premises to John Kete and others for 99 years and owed a debt of £300 to Captain John Savage and £100 to Mr. Langstone.) Principal due to Keate and others £300. Arrears of the said mortgage £120. To John Langstone £200.

‘This is a true Particular of my estates for which I desire to compound for. And I doe affirme that I am noe member of Parliament nor Papist

¹ See also History of Yarnton.

nor belonging to the Law either Common or Civill nor comprised within any evidences of the propositions or Votes.—Roger Brent.’

Endorsed: ‘To the Hon. Commissioners for Composition—the humble Petition of Roger Brent of Thrup, sheweth that your Petitioner hath been lately sequestrated for his delinquency although he did lay down his arms in the year of Our Lord 1643 and confesseth that he was before that time in Armes against the Parliament for which he humbly prayeth a favourable composition for his small estate. Referred to the Sub-Committee¹.’

This declaration only shows too plainly how the Thrup estate passed to the Langstones, well-known lawyers of the period, and who suffered severely themselves in the King’s cause². The Langstones were a very numerous family who owned Caversfield, Sarsden, and Middle Aston. John Langstone, who settled at Caversfield, near Bicester, was the father of twenty-two children, whose effigies in brass may be still seen in the church there. The Register of Steeple Aston contains the following entry:—

‘Anthony Langstone dyed at Thrup in Kidlington parish and was buried here, April 6th, 1692.’

The Langstones were succeeded by Pye, who sold the estate to Sir Francis Page, the Judge, upon whose death in 1741 his nephew by marriage succeeded³. According to a condition in Judge Page’s will, his great nephew Francis, whose family name was Bourne, was to take the name of Page as a condition of holding the freeholds of Middle

¹ From Royalist Composition Papers, vol. 41, pp. 85, 88, 89, 2nd series, Record Office. At the Manor House was an old portrait of Roger Brent, which was bought after Mr. Hutt’s death by the Rev. Jenner Marshall of Westcot Barton.

² See p. 65. Peter Langstone compounded under the Oxford Articles for delinquency, having lived 18 years in Oxford, and become a Captain in the regiment of Auxiliaries during its tenure as a garrison for the King. He was fined at $\frac{1}{10}$ £130—Cal. of Committee, for Compounding, part 2, p. 1565; also Anthony Langstone of Sedgbarrow, co. Worcester, p. 1613.

³ *Page*. This should be ‘his wife’s nephew.’ The relationship is as follows:—

Sir Francis Page = Frances Wheate of Glympton.

The nephew, Sir John Thomas Wheate, in Holy Orders, succeeded

eventually to the estate and title. Burke’s Extinct Baronetage.

Dr. Symonds’ MSS., vol. 3, p. 545, contains the following:—‘1804. To be sold the reversionary estates in Worcestershire and Oxfordshire at Garraway’s Coffee House, May 30th, all the estate of the Rev. Sir John Thomas Wheate, Bart., aged 54, expectant on the death, without issue, of Richard Charlett, Esq., of the age of 72, and who is unmarried, of and in the several manors and farms situate in Middle Aston, Steeple Aston, North Aston, Steeple Barton, Thrup and Wiggington in co. of Oxford, and also every 3rd presentation to the Vicarage of Steeple Barton.

For what here refers to Page, Pye and Bourne, I am indebted to Mr. Wing’s little works upon Steeple Aston and Kidlington.

Aston, Steeple Barton, and Thrup, in the county of Oxford. Francis died unmarried in 1803, and was succeeded by his brother Richard Bourne, who was already known by the name of Charlett, of Elmley Hall, Worcestershire, and Fellow of All Souls College. Upon his death the estate descended to his sister's son, William Sturges Bourne. This man was the author of an Act entitled 'Sturges Bourne's' Act for regulating and defining the powers of vestries. The Enclosure Award was signed in 1821 by Richard Bourne Charlett, who was recognised as lord of the manor. The manor was sold by this family about the year 1819, and was advertised at the time as a

'Farm at Thrup, house, &c., 215a. 5r. 26p., tithe free, in occupation of Messrs. Hutt. Rent £400¹.'

Exeter College was the purchaser, Mr. Joseph Hutt rented it until his death in 1890, when it let to Mr. Eagle.

The old mill which is read of in Domesday continued to exist, though decayed, until the Oxford and Birmingham Canal was made in 1790. The Canal Company purchased the mill presumably from the Parish of Kidlington, though we have no accounts of the sale, and making use of its headwater to supply their canal during the remainder of its course. Here the canal leaves the valley of the Cherwell, and making a sharp angle, enters Oxford by the Thames valley. The last entry we find relating to Thrup Mill occurs in the Churchwardens' book for 1789, when the building was repaired at the expense of the parish.

The beautiful roadside cross which still stands upon its original base, but without the head, is the only remains of antiquity left in Thrup. When Dr. Symonds, Rector of Ensham, compiled his MSS. the cross is said to have been perfect. The dimensions were: height, 18 feet in the shaft; diameter, 10 inches; plinth, 2 feet 2 inches high; next step, 2 feet 8 inches; bottom, 4 feet 4 inches².

In 1754 Richard Roberts of Yarnton, voted in right of lands and tenements in Thrup, occupied by himself.

¹ Dr. Symonds' MS.

² Ibid.

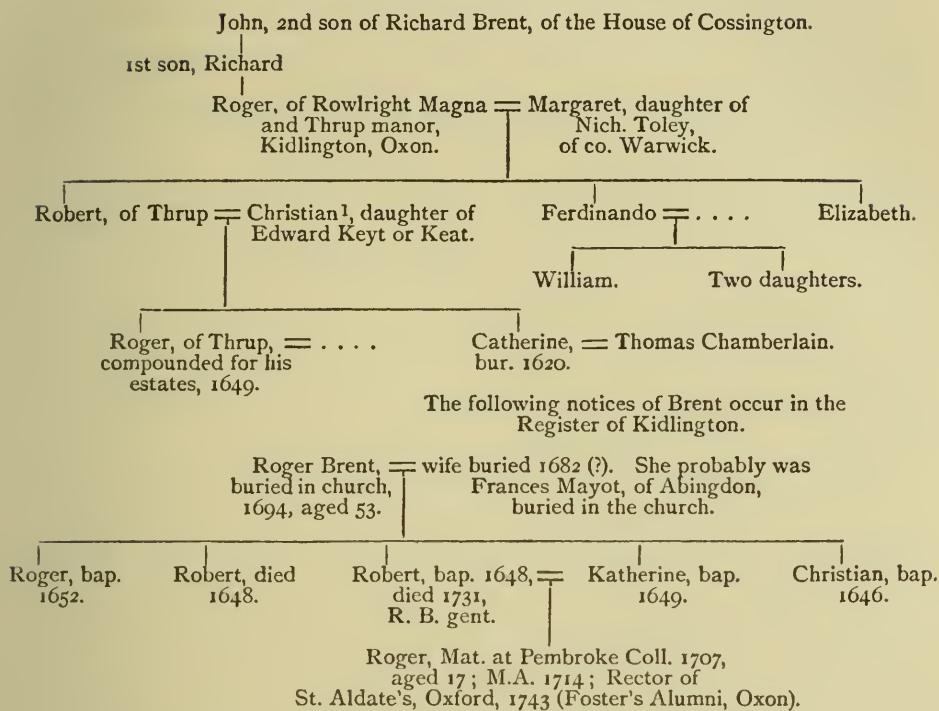
PEDIGREE OF BRENT.

From Wood MSS., F. 33.

Arms taken from Plot's map in Nat. History of Oxon.

ARMS.

Gules, a wyvern argent.



‘Copton Field’ lies towards Campsfield, and contained ‘The Slad,’ ‘Burnt Cross,’ ‘Long Sands,’ ‘Walletmoor,’ ‘Yatmoor,’ ‘Irons’ Gate.’

The ‘Butts,’ known as ‘Blencow’s Butts,’ were at the north-west end of the village, by the footpath going to Shipton. The word Butt was sometimes used for the ends and corners of lands.

The bridge over the canal at Thrup, called upon the Ordnance map ‘Sparrow gap,’ is known by the people, and called in the parish books, ‘Pady’s gap.’ There was once a family of the name of Pady in Oxford, but there is no tradition in Kidlington as to the origin of the name given to this bridge and the adjoining field.

CHAPTER IX.

TOWNSHIP OF GOSFORD OR GOSWORTH.

GOSFORD is a hamlet of Kidlington lying to the east of the village, extending from the bridge over the Cherwell on the north to Stratfield Lane¹, where the railway crosses the road on the south. Upon the east lies Water Eaton Lane, and on the west the highroad to Oxford. The township covers about 255 acres. The name seems to refer to the number of geese reared upon the Common, and the large meadow below the bridge is still known as Goosey Mead. The name is frequently spelt Gosforth, and called by the country folk Gozzard.

Gosford formed part of the domain of Robert d'Oiley, who gave land here, which was confirmed by his son Henry, to a community of Sisters of St. John of Jerusalem. The nuns did not long continue to reside here, they removed in 1180 to Buckland in Somersetshire. After their departure the house appears to have been carried on by the Knights of the 'Hospital,' and they built a chapel or oratory here in 1234.

There seems to have arisen some confusion between the Knights of St. John and the Templars. Anthony à Wood says, speaking of the Priory of St. Frideswide, 'In St. Frideswide's book I find that they had land at Gosford three miles distant from Oxford, some of which they let or sold to the Templars Knights who had a chapel or oratory there with some lodgings².'

It is said that the house at Gosford was used as a Court house, where the Preceptor of Sandford usually held his Courts and summoned his tenants of Woodstock, Coombe, and various estates in the neighbourhood to do suit and service³. There does not seem to be

¹ For Stratfield Lane see history of Yarnton.

² Diaries of A. Wood. Edited by Clark, p. 286.

³ Dr. Symonds' MSS, The Manor

of Hampton was given to the Templars by Rainald and Robert de Gaie. Wood, 10, p. 109. There seems to have arisen some confusion between Hampton ad Pontem and Gosford.

any reason to suppose that the Templars ever held this house; it is mentioned as the 'Hospital' of Gosford in the Osney Chartulary which was written about the year 1270, before the suppression of the Templars, and there we find a 'composition' between the Convent of Osney and the 'Hospital of St. John' relating to the chapel at Gosford¹. Anyhow the whole lands of the Templars came into the possession of the Hospitallers about the year 1323 and the Gosford house was carried on as heretofore. We read of one, William FitzJohn, of Barton Parva, coming twice a year to pay his rent at Gosford for a virgate of land which he held of the Master of the Hospital.

Hundred Rolls for Parva Barton, vol. 2, page 853:—

'Will FitzJohn holds one virgate of the Master of the Hospitallers of Jerusalem for 4s. and goes twice a year to Goseford, the same virgate used to be taxed to the Hundred of Wotton and used to yield for hydage 6d. and wardsilver and hevesilver to the Lord the King and used to pay at the two great courts of Wotton and has been withdrawn by the said Master by whose warrant we know not.'

Hundred Rolls for Herdewyk, vol. 2, p. 838:—

'Robert the Nyweman holds 1 virgate of land of the Hospital of Goseford for 4s. and owes his suit to the said Hospital.'

The fishing in the river must have been of some value to the house, and the name of the last Prior, Thomas Dowcra, seems to be preserved in Dowckra's weir near the Mill².

Pike from the Gosford 'Piscary' were sold at a high price in 1315; two were sold at 1s. 7½d. each, and in 1326 twenty-six Pickerall brought 15s. 1d. at Bicester³. The Abbot of Osney was joint lord of this Manor⁴ and paid to the Hospital an annual sum out of Water Eaton.

The estate of the Knights was divided at the general dissolution of religious houses between Anthony Stringer and John Williams.

A Deed, dated 6th March, 1649, setting out the particulars of many manors in Oxfordshire, which were then ordered to be sold, is entitled:—

'A Particular made by Act of Parliament for selling of all Fee Farm

¹ For which see Appendix.

² See p. 50.

³ Prof. T. Rogers, *Agricultural Prices*, vol. 2, p. 554.

⁴ See pp. 17 and 105. A mutilated harter, 356, belonging to Osney Abbey

says, '... grants to Martin... the whole of his land in Gosford near Kidlington, paying annually for the same 8s.' *Oxford Charters*. Turner and Coxe's Catalogue of MSS., p. 327.

rents and drie rents belonging to the Commonwealth of England formerly payable to the Crown of England¹’

In this we find

‘rents or tenths reserved issuing out of the Manor of Gosford with Appurtenances granted to Sir John Williams, Knt., and Anthony Stringer, Gent., their heirs and assigns for ever, 24th Feby. 34th Hen. 8, sometime in the tenure of Owen Wootten granted or late in the tenure of Bennet Hall, Esq^r, rendering annually xxj^s id ob.’

‘The Manor of Gosford, Oxon—Sir John Williams and Anthony Stringer

rent reserved 16^s 1½^d
Grantee of land (Col.) Martin².’

When the Deed for the endowment of the Vicarage of Kidlington was agreed upon, the tithes of Gosford appear to have been set aside for the endowment of the Vicar, as it is stipulated that he is to have the tithes of all the newly-enclosed ‘Closes,’ some of which must have been in Gosford, and in 1622 we find that Dr. John Prideaux, Rector, especially reserved to himself the tithes of Gosford³ in his lease of the Vicarage.

Gosford and Thrup were included in the general enclosure of Kidlington Parish.

In the Register of St. Mary the Virgin in Oxford occurs amongst the burials:—

‘James Long⁴ was taken out of the water at the bridge of Goserd and was buried in the church of All Saints’ 21 Sept., 1608.’

He seems to have been in some encounter with thieves, either killed by them or else he drowned himself; left doubtful.

1786. ‘Mr. Wyatt farmer of Water Eaton, was robbed near the guide post in Hampton Field leading from Gosford road to Bicester, by 3 foot-pads. They covered his eyes and mouth and took 19^s 5.’

In 1804, when the Vicarial Glebe and tithes were in the hands of Jonathan Rouse, the Gosford tithes were valued at £69 9s. 6d. A law-suit was terminated in 1820, the object of which was the apportionment of the tithes between the Vicar and the College as Rector. The suit was given in favour of the College with arrears and costs to the

¹ Fee Farm Rents, Roll 24, Record Office.

² Fee Farm Rents, M. 1, Martin 19. Counterpart of deeds. Record Office.

³ See p. 39.

⁴ Wood MS., D. 5.

⁵ Newspaper Scraps. Gough, Add. Oxon, 4^o. 49.

amount of £880 6s. 7d. The tithes of Gosford were finally commuted in 1832¹.

At the time when the tithe map was drawn out, 1850, the farm-house with land in Gosford bordering upon the Bicester road was in the possession of St. Peter's-in-the-East² in Oxford, and a field known as 'Louse Hall field' is put down as belonging to St. Clement's Alms-houses in Oxford. Can this name have any reference to an old tenement of the same name which once stood at the bottom of the London road in St. Clement's³?

The following extracts may serve to explain this supposed connection:—

Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, 1581 to 1590, page 114:—

'July 4th. Indenture of sale between William Stone and Will Frere of the third part of a messuage in Gossarde, alias Gosford, co. Oxon, late in the occupation of Thomas Stevenson.'

Report of Commissioners of Charities, A.D. 1815 to 1839; copy in Bodl. Libr., page 552:—

'Kidlington. Stone's Hospital in St. Clement's.

'A Deed dated 1st Feby., 1699, by which Stephen Fry on the 1st part, William Painter and others on the 2nd part (the three Visitors of the Hospital) and the Bretheren and Sisters on the 3rd part, purchased the lands as below— . . . also a close of pasture called Bachelor's Ground, or the little Cow close containing about 14 acres, in Kidlington, in trust, &c.'

The field and house in Gosford known as 'Louse Hall' seems to have been the property of the parish of Kidlington, and was used by the parish for the poor, and was constantly referred to by the Overseers. In 1795 the Overseer's accounts contain a memorandum that Thomas Smith entered into possession of 'Louse Hall' at the rent of 10s. a year, his descendants still have it in their hands. In the Register we find the 'Widdowe West of Loose-hall was buried November 3rd, 1658.'

Louse Hall field was let in recent years to Mr. Standen, of the Star Inn, now the Clarendon in Oxford. He under-let it to Nicholls of the Mill, who paid the rent in eels which supplied the 'Star.'

It is recorded in a State Paper detailing the events of the imprisonment of Princess, afterwards Queen, Elizabeth, that on May 23rd, 1554, she came from the Tower of London 'by Whatley, Islyppe, and

¹ Reg. of Exeter College. Boase.

² St. Peter's as belonging to Merton College.

³ Peshall's Wood, p. 287.

Gosworth, from whence she passed straight to Woodstock¹, consequently she must have gone through Kidlington.

The account of the skirmish here has been given at length at page 68.

PROPERTY OF MERTON COLLEGE.

At the Enclosure of Kidlington two pieces of land were apportioned to Merton College, marked upon the map 301 and 306. These seem to have formed part of Canaham Meadow, the farm-house belonging to the College probably marks the site of the buildings of the Knights Hospitallers, as we may infer from the tradition of the chapel attached to one of the outbuildings, and by the remains of old fish-ponds in the opposite Close. By the kindness and courtesy of the Warden of Merton, and the Vicar of St. Peter's-in-the-East, a few particulars may be stated. There do not appear to be any title-deeds to show how the property came to the College. The farm was apportioned equally between the Benefices of St. Peter's and Holywell, and is spoken of in a Terrier² of the land of St. Peter's as a 'farm assigned to' (by?) 'the College to meet (as I conceive) a Benefaction from Queen Anne's Bounty at the time of the enclosure of Kidlington Common.' The joint Vicars sold the farm in June 1870 to the Duke of Marlborough for £2130. The tithe was commuted for a rent charge of £7 7s. 3d., two acres being given for the purpose. In 1789 ten acres were purchased, of which two were taken in 1811 for the Kidlington Tithe.

¹ Marshall's Woodstock, p. 153.

who was instituted Vicar of St. Peter's

² Drawn up by Bishop Hobhouse, in 1843.

CHAPTER X.

I.—SMITHS OF KIDLINGTON.

THE families of Smith of Kidlington call for some explanation to enable us to understand their position in the parish. We find three families bearing the name, but each bearing a different armorial coat, all three occupying positions of respectability and of influence in the parish. Besides these, there was Smith of Islip, who, at the time when Dr. Plot published his map, was in the position of Lord of the Manor. The question continually arises, are all these families from the same stock? What we can say for certain is as follows:—

It is a matter of interest to watch the influence which is brought to bear by political events upon private families, and in this case we see how a great dynastic change wrought upon a private family and transplanted them from one part of the kingdom to another.

After the battle of Stoke, Thomas Stanley, a staunch supporter of Henry VII, followed the King from Lancashire, and in his train came a young William Smith. This young man was one of an old family of Smith, who for many generations had been established at Cuerdly, which was a portion of the vast estates belonging to Jervaulx Abbey. William Smith got his education in Oxford, and having shown great practical ability in business was promoted by his patron's influence from one post of utility to another until he was called to fill the Episcopal See of Lincoln. Hence it is easy to understand how his nephews followed his fortunes, and of three brothers one settled in Lincolnshire and two became the heads of families in Oxford. From the elder Richard, by his son Thomas and his two wives, sprang all the Smiths of St. Aldate's Parish. He followed the business of a brewer, and was several times made Mayor of the City. We read in the City Records the terms of the lease of his house without the

south gate, and how it was bombarded during the civil wars. No doubt his business was carried on in Brewer Street. The second brother, Thomas, was baker and cook of Christ Church. He also married twice, and by his second wife, Ann West, he became the father of John, M.A. of Christ Church, father by his wife, Magdalen Holloway of Kidlington, of Lady Morton.

These people all bore the arms of the Bishop, with some slight difference, viz., 'a chevron between three roses.' The Smiths of Islip bore 'a bend between two unicorns' heads.' This same coat belonged to Will. Smith of Rosedale in the North Riding of Yorkshire, and from him it was borne by many families in Ireland, and also by Dr. Joseph Smith of Kidlington. This may simply be a coincidence, but we know Dr. Joseph Smith to have been of the Yorkshire family; he quartered the arms of Smith of Ryhope, co. Durham, a tower upon a mount, from a marriage with an heiress. Of the Smiths of Farmington, in Gloucestershire, and who rented the Rectory House, we learn that as far back as circa 1570 Humphrey Smith was Rector of Castle Eaton in Wilts, he presented William Smith to the Rectory of Alvescote in Oxon. The son of William Smith, Humphrey, became Rector of Farmington, co. Gloucester, it was he who bought the Manor of Harn Hill in the same county in 1660 from Thomas Aubrey. He died in 1687, being buried in his own church at Farmington beneath a slab bearing the arms 'parted per pale, ermine and erminois, an eagle displayed sable¹.' Mr. Thomas Smith of Headington Hill, who is buried in the church with ten of his children, was one of this family, and his son or his executor sold the Harn Hill estate in 1787 to Richard Watts of Wootton Bassett, Wilts. The last of this branch of the family, Miss Elizabeth Smith, died in 1825 at Headington Rise, and was buried at Kidlington. She left all her ready money away from the Smiths, considering that her cousin had not contracted a suitable marriage. Eventually Mr. John Smith of Iffley came in for a portion of the property, viz., three farms in Kidlington, one at Littlemore, one at Headington, one at Rose Hill and one at Tusmore near Bicester².

¹ See page 89.

² This account is compiled from the various sources already quoted and from Miss Smith's information. She died at Summertown in 1886. The house at Headington Rise, belonging to Mr. Thomas Smith, is now the property of

Mr. Herbert Morrell. It was once known as 'Squab Hall.' Miss Smith had several family portraits which she bequeathed to her niece Mrs. Chapman of Wood Eaton. Also a coat of arms framed, viz. 'Parted per pale, 1st, sable, three oval buckles fessewise argent; 2nd,

From this it appears clear that the Smiths of Hampden Manor, of the Rectory Farm and the Provost of Queen's College were three distinct families. The Smiths of Iffley were a branch of Farmington.

II.—FAMILY OF ALMONT OF KIDLINGTON.

This family were the descendants of James and Ursula Almont¹ who dwelt in Haberdasher's Hall, an old tenement in Oxford, now included in the site of Brasenose College, and there they carried on the business of tailors and drapers. The first of the name in Kidlington was Thomas, a tailor in Oxford, who rented under Brasenose College in 1571. Their house seems to have been that now known as Grove House in Church End, and this we may fairly assert from evidence in the will of Sir Will. Morton and also in Roger Almont's will, where the land set apart for the Alms-houses and for the school pension is in both cases said to be adjoining to Almont's house.

Several members of the family are mentioned in the Register, but it is impossible to connect them all. Roger Almont, who bequeathed the school money, was a Fellow of Trinity College, where he is buried. Hearne, in his Diary, speaks thus of him:—

'Roger Almont had been twice returned with Mr. Dobson, to the Visitor the Bishop of Winchester, for him to choose one of them as President . . . he had led such an obscure life for a great many years in the college that 'tis a hard matter to know his true character; yet it may be observed that when he was a Tutor he notoriously neglected his duty. Dr. Bathurst was so sensible of this that he made him his Curate at Garsington to oblige him to leave off pupils².'

The amount of his benefaction to the school will be found under the head of Charities. His brother, James Almont, was public notary, and steward to Magdalen College³. His name as such occurs frequently in the disputes between that college and the King. He was buried in Kidlington in 1725, aged 72. Another Roger married Anne Welshman, who by her second marriage with Captain William Pudsey became the mother of Mrs. Sydenham. Elizabeth

argent, a chevron between three hedgehogs sable.' These are Marten of Rousham and Harris. This might serve to identify some connection.

¹ Turner's Records of City of Oxford.

² Hearne's Diary, Oxford Historical Society, vol. i. pp. 141 and 153.

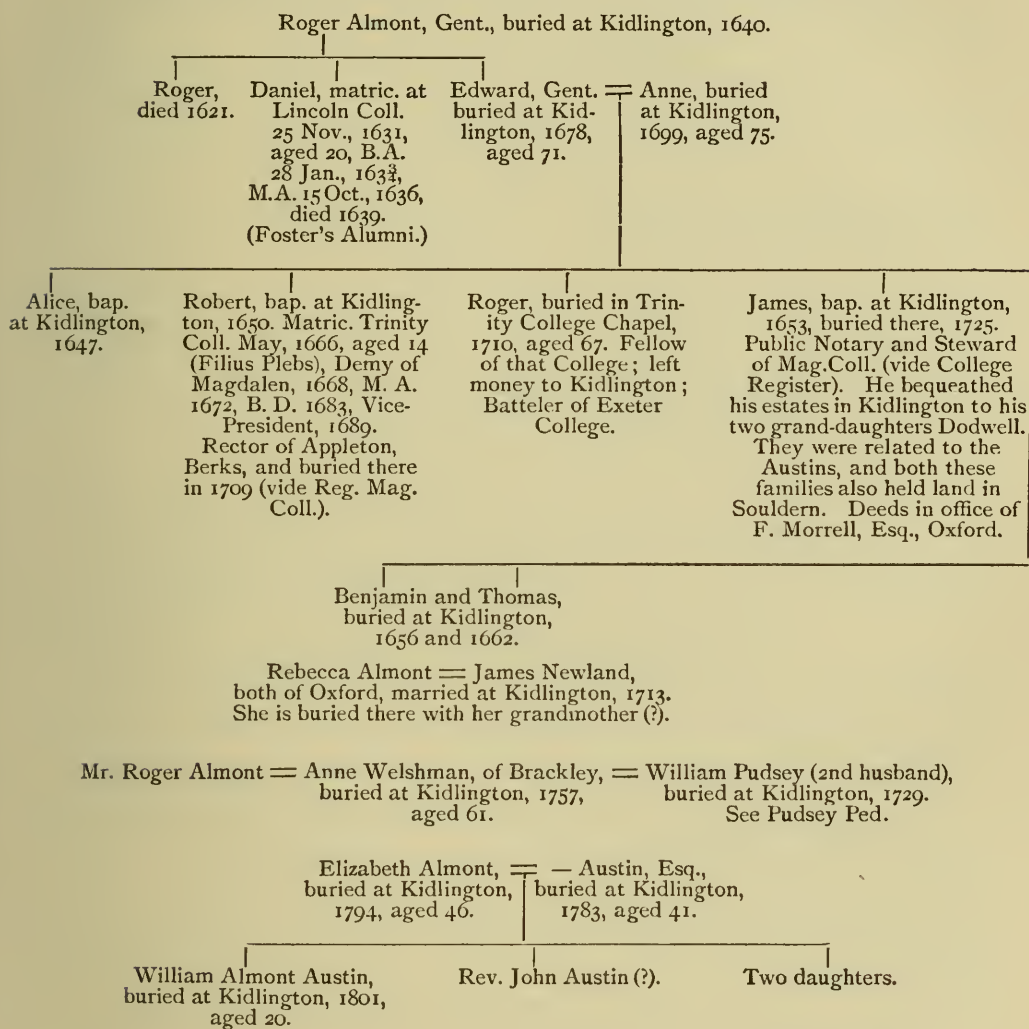
³ Reg. of Magd. Coll., Bloxam. Also Magd. Coll. and James 2nd, Oxford Hist. Soc., 1886.

Almont married William Austin, and eventually the property was sold and part bought by the Rev. John Austin and part, including the house, by Thomas Pulley, a farmer¹.

PEDIGREE OF ALMONT OR ALMONDE OF KIDLINGTON.

This pedigree drawn from the Register and tombstones at Kidlington, supplemented by extracts from Magdalen College Register, by Bloxam.

Thomas Almont rented a house in Kidlington from Brasenose College in 1571.



¹ Old land assessment papers for 1807 in the County Office, Oxford. 'Mr. Pulley for part of late Mrs. Austin's.' In the award map Anne Pulley, widow, is put down as owning and occupying Grove House. It was subsequently the

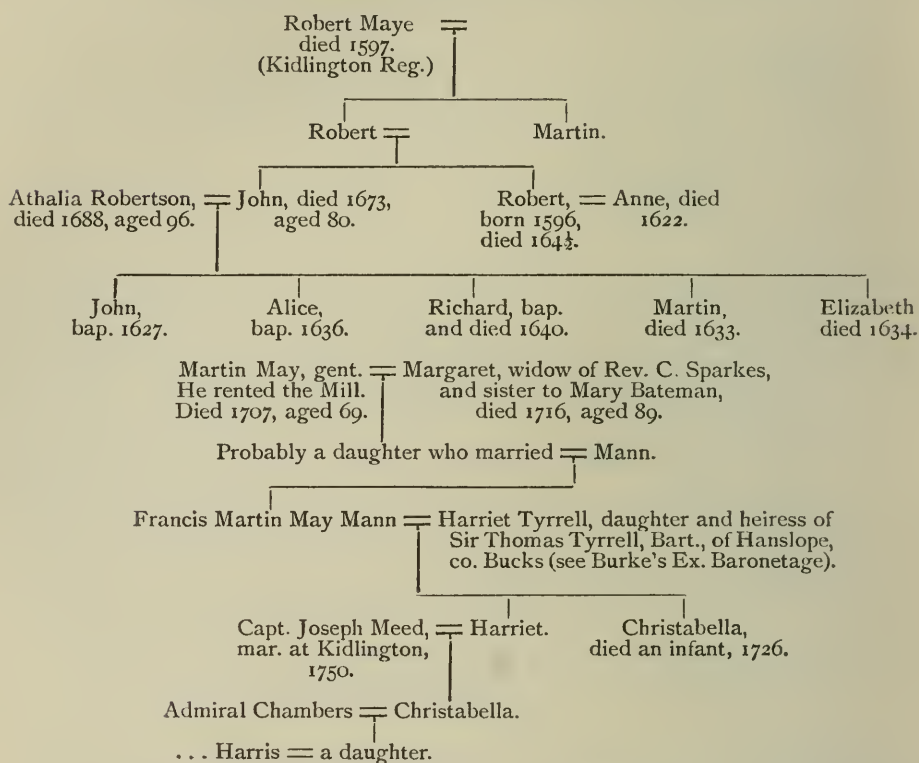
property of Henry Smith, Mr. Parker, Mr. W. Brain, and in 1877 was bought from the last-named by Bryan John Stapleton, one of the family of Carlton Hall, Selby, Yorks.

The Rev. John Austin bought some of Almont's land. Some was bought by Pulley, a farmer.

In Wood, F 33, are two lists of gentry in Oxfordshire who were sworn for the King, no date; Roger Almond, of Kidlington, 'gentleman,' and Robert Fitzharbert, of Begbrook, 'armiger,' appear in both.

PEDIGREE OF MAYE AND MANN OF KIDLINGTON.

Compiled from the Register and the tombstones in the church.



Appended to the lease of the Mill at Kidlington, in the archives of Exeter College, is a seal bearing 'ermine two chevronels.' This is the same coat as borne by Finmore of Hincksey; possibly it may have been used here by Finmore of Kidlington as witness to this Deed.

From the Registers of Kidlington:—

- 'Robert May the Elder died 1597.
- Robert May baptised 1596.
- Ann, wife of Robert May, died 1622.
- Robert May died 164½.
- Thomas Turner and Anne May married 1598.

John Tesler and Elizabeth May married 1612.
 John May and Athaliah Robertson married 1622.
 John, son of John May, baptised 1627.
 Alice, dau. do. baptised 1636.
 Richard, son of do. baptised 1640.
 Martin, son of do. buried 1633.
 Elizabeth, dau. of do. buried 1634.
 Richard, son of do. buried 1640.
 John May buried 1673.
 Athaliah May (his wife) buried 1688 aged 96.'

From the Chancery Deed referred to at page 63 we learn that Robert May who executed that Deed had two sons, Robert and Martin; and to Martin, the second son, he left his property.

The family appear to have been of importance in the village, and their house was one of the manor houses, rebuilt by the Duke of Marlborough and now occupied by Mr. George Woodford.

III.—CHARITIES BEQUEATHED TO KIDLINGTON FROM THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth

'A benefaction was left by Edward Gladwell to be lent to four poor men every year gratis: now in possession of the present Churchwardens and to be delivered from C. W. to C. W.; the sum of 20s.¹'

In the year 1756 the above sum was in the hands of John Morris, Richard Bradford, John Dod, and Will. Dod. What became of this benefaction is related at page 52, and for further notice of Edward (or Edmund) Gladwell, or Gledhill, see page 76.

'In 1633, in the will of Thomas Kent proved in the same year at Oxford, there appears to be given sixpence a year to be distributed to six poor widows by the Churchwardens, upon every New Year's Day, from the estates where Mr. Combes and George Bradford lived, and now in the possession of Mr. Hindes of Woodstock¹.'

This charity has been lost. From examination of all the available papers it would appear that this portion of Kent's land is what lies

¹ This from Registry, in hand-writing of Rev. E. Field.

between the Bury Moor Road and the church. Madam Conant seems to have held another part, from her first husband, Henry Streete¹.

1634. 'Five shillings was charged upon a cottage belonging to John Ayres for the reparation and amendment of a way or "Cassey" leading to the Parish Church².'

'Given and allowed out of the Vicaridge 3 quarters of beef, $\frac{1}{2}$ a quarter or 4 bushels of Wheate, and $\frac{1}{2}$ a quarter of Mault out of the Parsonage for the providing of a breakfast on Christmas Day in the morning, to be dressed and disposed of and spent att the Vicaridge House yeerely amongst the Parishioners of Kidlington.

'A quarter or 8 bushells of wheate allowed out of the Parsonage and delivered to the Churchwardens to make cakes to be given and distributed duely every yeare amongst the Inhabitants of the said Parish of Kidlington at the parish Church at Easter².'

In course of years this custom appears to have been discontinued as among a collection of Churchwarden's presentations, covering many years, the following appears:—

'14 June, 1813. The Easter Cake is not given away by the Parsonage Farm as it used to be.' '21 Oct., 1813. That the Easter Cake to be distributed annually has not yet been given, but the Rector promises it shall be done³.'

This is the single complaint laid before the Archdeacon. Happy the community that has no history! The appeal seems to have been in vain.

The origin of the cake may have been the Easter alms given by the Abbot of Osney to the poor of Kidlington, see page 33.

1672. The Alms-houses founded for six poor persons by Sir Will. Morton and endowed with £13 6s. 8d. paid out of land bought by him from Griffin Irons, near the church; now in possession of the Duke of Marlborough. The following extract from Judge Morton's will is from the Register.

¹ See purchase by Brasenose College, p. 75. See also Saunders' Charity and Madam Conant's.

² Turner, Coll. Oxon. Terriers, vol. 2, p. 329, Archidiaconal Papers.

³ u. s. vol. 13, p. 130, C. 54.

‘Whereas I have built and erected an Hospital at Kidlington for the habitation of three poor men and three poor women that are impotent, decrepit, and whose work is done and in remembrance of my said dearly beloved wife and my dear and dutiful children John Morton, George, William, Anne and Magdalen Morton deceased, which I had by her, &c., to be chosen from the parish of Kidlington or from St. Aldate’s alias St. Toll’s in Oxford being the parish where I first saw and married my said wife and where some of my said children were born, &c. . . . the appointment to be made by my heirs or in default by the Bishop of the Diocese.

‘The house to be built upon the land I purchased of Mr. Almont in Kidlington, and the money twenty marks yearly to be paid upon the land purchased from Griffin Irons, Yeoman. Two pounds of which to be yearly paid to each of the Alms-folk and the remainder to go towards the repairs of the buildings and any overplus to be spent upon clothing for the people. Conditions: “Orderly life and attendance at church.”

‘Item, I give to my son James Morton and his heirs, &c., my Manor of Hampden called Hampden’s Manor lying in the parish of Kidlington alias Cudlington with all rights, &c., which I have redeemed from mortgage being his mother’s inheritance, or have bought in, taken, or purchased in my own name or in the name of my worthy son-in-law Thomas Tourneur of Gray’s Inn, Esq., Richard Holloway, Esq., or any other persons, &c., chargeable nevertheless with the rent of 20 marks to the Hospital.’

The will proved in London before Robert Wiseman, Surrogate. Dated 26 March, 1672.

The ‘Barn close,’ from which the money is paid, is marked 163 on the plan. This estate was said to have been of the value of £36 yearly¹.

1673. Messrs. John and Martin May gave 10s. each per annum to the poor, in bread, to be given upon All Saints’ day. This is charged upon the land successively in possession of Forty and of Brown and Selwood; now belonging to the Duke of Marlborough, and rented by George Woodford. On the plan No. 158.

1677. Mr. John Tustian, junior, by will this year left 20s. a year for ever, viz. 10s. for a sermon to be preached upon the 24th of April, and 10s. to be given in bread upon the same day. Security known as Tustian’s² or Posted Close, upon the map No. 90, now the property of Exeter College.

¹ Same as Selwood’s, now George Woodford’s.

² For Tustian, see History of Yarn-ton. Dr. Richards, Rector of Exeter

College, left the reversion, after his sister’s death of these fields, to found an Exhibition for poor Scholars. Reg. Ex. Coll., Boase, p. 123.

1709. Mr. Roger Almont by will dated this year—

‘... Item, I give to the poor of Garsington in the said county of Oxford, five pounds, and to the poor of Magdalen parish in Oxford five pounds, and from my close in Kidlington aforesaid, near adjoining to my messuage being in Kidlington, both in the possession of Will. Newell, with an annuity of the yearly payment of fifty shillings to be for ever after my decease paid into the hands of the overseers of the poor of Kidlington aforesaid free from any taxes or deductions whatsoever, at four quarterly payments in the year; that is to say on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Bd. V. M.; St. John Baptist; St. Michael the Archangel; and St. Thomas Apostle by even and equal portions: the first of these payments to be paid upon the feast next happening after my decease. And my will is that if any part of the said money shall be behind or unpaid thirty days after the said feasts then the overseers shall have power to enter upon the said close and receive the rents, &c., until such annuity and all charges shall be paid. And my will is that the overseers, &c., shall pay over the money to some honest understanding and good schoolmaster who shall, &c., teach two boys of Kidlington to read, write, and cast accounts, &c., which said boys shall be nominated by my cousin Smith, my brother James, the Curate and Overseers of the poor of Kidlington after the decease of my said cousin and brother, by my own heirs who shall be owners of my estate in Kidlington and the succeeding College Tenants of the Parsonage and the Curate and Overseers for the time being for ever. And I will that the persons aforesaid shall from time to time have the ordering, direction, and government of my said charity¹’

The close mentioned in this will is now the property of Exeter College and four cottages stand upon it. The Rev. John Austin purchased the land, probably upon Almont’s death, and he allowed the above charge to be laid upon the cottages in consideration of the remittance of £75 of the purchase money. For further notice see page 49 of this history.

The £5 bequeathed to the poor of Kidlington was paid by James Almont, brother to Roger, in 1711, namely the year after Roger’s decease. It was distributed amongst fifty-six persons, the names being entered in the Churchwarden’s book. The road in front of the cottages mentioned here was the site of a pond at the time of the Enclosure.

1711. Mr. William Plaistow of Stanton Harcourt in his will in the Registry of the Diocese of Oxford—

¹ From Parish Register.

‘I give the poor children of Kidlington in co. Oxford £20 to be set to use; the interest to be employed yearly to the setting poor children to school. I do make Thomas Barefoot and Will Enstone Trustees of this my last will and Testament and desire them to take care the six score pounds for the five Towns be carefully set forth, &c.’ This from the Register with the note appended, ‘This money quite lost. E. Field.’

Half of this money seems to have been spent in building a gallery in the church for the singers in the time that Will. Dod was churchwarden, about 1764, the rest was lost. For the account of the gallery see page 42 of this history. The following memorandum occurs in the Churchwarden’s book, 1757: ‘Ten pounds of Mr. Plaistow’s money in the hands of Mr. Dodd;’ followed, in 1762, by his promise to repay the same.

A similar sum was left under this will to four other villages in Oxfordshire.

No date, but Thomas Saunders was overseer in 1716.

‘Mr. Thomas Saunders gave 10s. a year in bread to be given every Good Friday to come from his estate in Church End. Security, a close known as Wyatt’s Malt House Close.’ On plan No. 184.

The family of Saunders were settled in Kidlington from the reign of Henry VIII, when Robert Saunders rented the Rectory House from the Abbot of Osney. The above estate in Church End appears to have been owned by Francis Saunders as late as the beginning of this century. In the church their tombstones range from 1669 to 1802, and the last appears to have been a brewer at Witney. An indenture dated 1647 is in the possession of the writer by which Christopher Saunders of his Majesty’s Body Guard and Avis his wife mortgage to Woodhull Streete of Kidlington their house and land. This is apparently the part of the estate left by Henry Streete to his widow, and which she charged with money for the poor.

Christopher Saunders was son of Samuel, which Samuel was son of Ambrose Saunders who rented the Vicarage House. The terms of the mortgage are for £108 due from them to Woodhull Streete; in default of payment Woodhull Streete is to enter into possession for ninety-nine years upon the payment of the sum of £100 in hand and 2s. yearly rent. See Kent’s charity, also Madam Conant’s.

1717. Madam Conant, the widow of Henry Streete, left the following benefaction. She died 27th March this year.

‘Item, I give £6 15s. a year for ever to the Minister and Churchwardens for the time being of Kidlington; to be paid to them out of my estate formerly rents in Kidlington; part of the which estate Nathaniel Faulkner now rents and the other part is now in the possession of Mr. Combes of the same Town for a term of years for a small quit rent; to the several uses following. Three pounds thereof for three sermons to be preached in the Church of Kidlington in every year for ever to put the parishioners in mind of their unstability. One sermon on the 30th day of March being the day on which my first husband Mr. Henry Streete died and one on that day of the month on which it shall please God that my husband Dr. Conant shall depart this life, and the other sermon on that day when I shall depart. And the other three pounds thereof to be distributed in bread at the discretion of the Minister and Churchwardens to the poor of the Town of Kidlington; that is to say 20s. on every of the three days aforesaid for ever; and the 15s. as a gift to the Clerk.’

The three days are the 27th and 30th March, and 23rd August. The above account in the Register is preceded by a note signed by Rev. E. Field.

‘The following particulars are copied from a paper in the handwriting of one Leonard, many years ago church warden. The paper is not considered to be authentic, but the particulars mentioned may be of use as a direction to those who are inclined to search into the circumstances.’

An old paper similar to that mentioned by Mr. Field is still in the church chest, and in it Madam Conant calls the estate by the title of ‘The College,’ and appoints that the money should be paid after the lease to William Smith and Nathaniel Faulkener shall expire. This land, or part of it, was what is now called Hester’s Land, No. 160 on the plan. The name of ‘The College’ may point to some old, forgotten establishment. See also Kent’s and Saunders’ charity.

1729. Extract of the will of Isaac Shard, Knight, of Kennington, co. Surrey, 30th April, 1729:—

‘Item, my will is that my son Abraham his heirs and executors shall yearly take care and lodge in some good hands three pounds yearly out of my real estate and pay to the church wardens or the overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Kidlington and their successors, that they may punctually give Twenty shillings in Bread on the 11th day of May and also twenty shillings in Bread on the 4th day of November, to poor Housekeepers yearly, that receive no alms, and also 10s. for a sermon to be preached on Michaelmas Day yearly being the day in the year 1655 I was baptised which will appear in the Registry Book of the said parish, and the other 10s. for the churchwardens and their successors to take care that my

honoured Father and Mother's tomb may be maintained and preserved; that no Corps or Corpses be buried in the said grave. And my desire is that my will be punctually observed and performed and upon omission or neglect or nonpayment the gift to cease if it be through the means of the churchwardens, overseers, or their successors.'

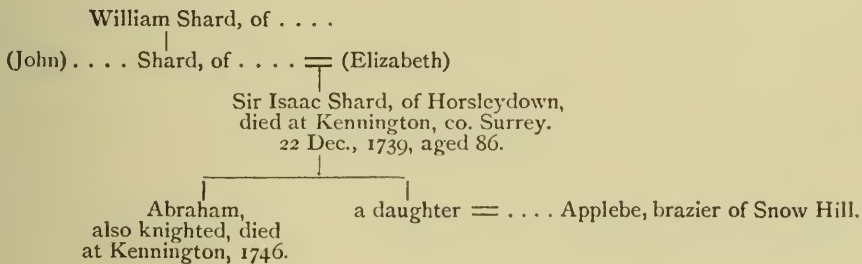
This benefaction became first due at Christmas, 1740, and was paid by Mrs. Shard, of Torbay House, Devon, up to Christmas, 1819. She dying intestate, without any heir in England, all her personal property escheated to the Crown, and all the landed estate she had from her husband devolved to his lineal descendant, C. Shard, Esq., of Buckinghamshire. Both he and the Crown have refused to continue the payment of the benefaction.

The name of Shard occurs in the Registry in 1633; also see Yarnton Register.

The above-mentioned tomb is an altar-shaped monument in the middle of the churchyard, opposite the little south door.

'Sir Isaac Schard or Shard, grant of arms, 1714. "Argent, a bend betwixt a bugle horn in chief sable, stringed and garnished or, in base a buck's head coupéd, proper, attired or. Crest—A lion passant, per pale or and sable, guttee, counterchanged, holding in right paw like bugle horn."

'Sir Isaac was of Horsleydown, Southwark, and Citizen of London one of the Deputy Lieutenants for the said City. Knighted at Windsor Castle on presenting the address to the Queen 18th March, 1707. High Sheriff of Surrey 1707¹.'



The address which gave occasion for Sir Isaac's knighthood was probably upon the same subject as the following, mentioned in the 'Acts of Council' at Woodstock in 1708. It was moved that

'An address to her Majesty to assist her against the Pretender and all his adherents upon the invasion of the pretended Prince of Wales².'

¹ Harleian Soc., vol. viii. Peter Le Neve's Pedigrees of Knights. In the Parish Reg. occur the births of Thomas, son of Edward Sharde, 1633, and Mary,

daughter of John Sharde, 1652.

² From Marshall's Woodstock, p. 266.

The last donation is from John Morris, Esq., who left 5s. a year to be given in bread to the poor either on New Year's Day or the 24th April from an estate which subsequently belonged to John Jolly of Enstone, marked on the plan 75, and now the property of the Wrens. This notice is from the Charity Commissioners' Report, 1844. There is some confusion in the Churchwardens' book between this charity and Saunders', and the names and dates are interchanged. John Morris was Churchwarden in 1756. Jolly rented the bakehouse from Brasenose College. See page 76.

A locality near Enstone was called after Mr. John Jolly.

'Mr. John Jolly in consequence of the number of ricks he was accustomed to raise upon one spot, gave occasion for its name of "Jolly's Ricks." He was one of the largest proprietors of stage coaches and waggons ¹.'

¹ Jordan's History of Enstone, pp. 376 and 379.

CHAPTER XI.

I.—A KEY TO THE TOMBSTONES AND EPITAPHS IN THE CHURCH.

IN THE SOUTH TRANSEPT.

NEAR the little door, are several flat stones to the memory of the families of May and Mann, Philips and Newman. The first in date is

‘John May who dyed the 9th day of March, 1673, about the 80th year of his age ¹.’

This is not now existing, but the following is still in place :—

‘Here lyeth the body of Athaliah May, wife of John May adjacent, who dyed y^e 5th day of April, 1688, aged about 96 years.’

Close by is the grave of their son or grandson :—

‘D. O. M. Hic jacet Martinus May Generosus de Kidlington in Com. Oxon qui obiit, 7 Dec^b, 1707, Aetat. 69.’

His wife has a memorial tablet affixed to the north wall of the chancel (according to Rawlinson on the south wall) :—

‘In memory of Margaret May, widdow, who was first wife of Mr. Charles Sparkes and afterwards wife of Mr. Martin May, who died June the 22nd, 1716, aged 89. This small monument was erected by Mrs. Mary Bateman, her sister.’

Of her first husband we read of the following epitaph, probably in the choir :—

‘Hic jacet Carolus Sparkes S. Th. Bacch. Coll. Trinitatis, Oxon, quondam socius in spe felicis resurrectionis, obiit Dec^b 6th, 1687, aet. LVI.’

Close to the above-mentioned little door and next to Martin May,

‘Here lyeth the body of Christabella the daughter of Francis and Hariot Man, she died an Infant 27th of Sept. 1726.’

¹ Rawlinson, B 400 F.

Francis Martin May Man succeeded Martin May in the property, and in all probability was his grandson. He married Harriet Tyrrell, the heiress of Sir T. Tyrrell, of Hanslope, co. Bucks. Over the little door is a tablet surmounted by a coat of arms, viz., 'vert, a fesse argent charged with three "ogresses" between three goats passant.' Crest, a goat's head.

'In memoriam Guil. Man qui die Jan 5, 1718 anno Christi, aetatis 21^{mo} obiit. Hoc marmor unicum sui amoris indicium quod vel voluit vel posuit dat frater maerens P. 1721.'

William Man lies buried under the slab in the corner with the date of his death, 5th January, 1718; also Mary Man, who died April, 1739, aged seventy-four. Upon the same stone with these two is an inscription to

'Thomas Philips who dyed the 9th of Oct., 1701, aged 37.'

For further notice of this family see chapter on Charities. This last stone has evidently been recut, or else a new one substituted for the original, at the time of the last interment. The original inscription according to Rawlinson, B 400 F, was in capitals:—

'Here lyeth the body of Mr. Thomas Philips sonne of Mr. John Philips of Wornall (Worminghall) co. Bucks. He dyed the 9th day of Oct., 1701.'

From this we are able to say with certainty that this family was the same as the Philips of Ickford, Bucks, and Tetsworth, co. Oxon (for a notice of whom see Payne's 'Catholic Non-jurors,' p. 15, published by Burns and Oates). His father and mother lie near, and a tablet above upon the wall records

'Subtus requiescit quicquid mortale fuit Johannis Phillips Gen. Alicaeque uxoris ejus. Hic nono die Oct. an. Christ. 1719 annos natus 61 obiit. Illa Tricesimo die Aprilis, 1728, act. 72, e vita cessit.'

In the Lady Chapel is another handsome slab bearing two inscriptions within a lozenge and a circle inlaid in the stone:—

'Here lyeth the body of Mr. John Phillips who died Feby. 20, 1732, aged 46 years. And also the body of Anne the wife of Mr. John Phillips. She died in ye year 1717.'

Between the inscriptions a cross, a sure sign in those days that the dead professed the ancient faith. Where this family lived we cannot say with certainty, but from evidence of some old assessment papers and parish rating and voting lists, we may infer that they lived in the house known as the 'Old Crown,' and this house, Hudson, a little later, rented

from them ; later on it came down to Panting, of ' Wornhall.' Close to Philips in the south entrance, and like them of the old religion, lie the following :—

' In memory of Anne, the wife of Richard Hudson, who died April 19, 1776, aged 82 years. + In memory also of her husband, Richard Hudson, who died Dec. 14, 1779, aged 77 years. Requiescat in pace, Amen.'

In the Lady Chapel two more stones occur to the same family :—

' + Here lyeth the body of Richard Hudson, senior, who departed Jan. 3, 1738, aged 72 years. Requiescat in pace.'

' + Here lyeth the body of Elizabeth, wife of Richard Hudson, who died Feby. 6, 1757, aged 74 years. Requiescat in pace.'

Another cut lozenge shape :—

' Here lyeth the body of Richard Hudson, son of Richard and Ann Hudson, died March 21, 1734³/₄, aged 7 years. Also John, another child, aged 12—1771.'

All the information we can gain about these people is that one of them seems to have been in the law, and drew up an indenture for the parish. They apparently were connected with the village of Combe. Returning to the same south transept we find several inscriptions to the Newmans. Alice, the daughter of Richard Prideaux, married Richard Newman. The first in date was on a small one-third sized stone :—

' Here lyeth Thomas Newman, ye youngest son of Richard Newman, senior. He died the 6th March, 1673.' Rawl., B 400 F.

Next, in the centre of a large slab, the top and bottom of which has been used by another family,

' Here lyeth the body of Alice the wife of Richard Newman, gent., who departed this life June 29th, 1705, aged 75 years.'

Another slab, the upper half of which is missing, but can be supplied from Rawlinson,

' Richard Newman, senior, Gent. He departed this life 25 July, 1695, aged 75. And also the body of Robert Newman, Clerke, son of the above named Richard Newman, dyed the 18th day of October, Aō dñm 1721, aged 57 years.'

He served Shipton-on-Cherwell.

' Richard Newman, gent., died June, 1702, aged 68.'

' Alice Newman, widow, late wife of Robert Newman, Clerk, died Nov. 1724, aged 71.'

These last two from Dr. Symonds ; the next from Rawlinson.

' Here lyeth the body of Anne, the wife of William Bunce of St. James'

Clerkenwell, London, Vintner; she was the daughter of Richard and Alice Newman, Gent., who lye interred near this place. Born March 9, 1651, died Sept. 21, 1714.'

Encroaching upon the stone of Mrs. Newman are two inscriptions of much later date; and also two more stones of the same family:—

'To Mary Anne, Thomas, Henry, Charles, children of Bond and Anne Spindler who died in their infancy.' And

'John, son of Robert and Mary Spindler, an infant.'

This family lived at Gosford Hill farm. More of them are buried towards the bottom of the church.

In the Lady Chapel, *alias* Sydenham aisle, there are three tombs to the Hudsons and one to Phillips already mentioned. One

'To the Memory of Thomas Selwood who died 12 April, 1808, aged 50 years.'

He had the old farm now pulled down in May's yard, No. 158 on map.

'Here lyeth ye body of Martha the wife of Richard Lamborn who died Dec. 1st, 1729, aged 49 years.'

'Francis Saunders who died May 20, 1783, aged 37.'

This is not complete. Many more of this family are in the church. A very handsome incised stone slab to the memory of three children of Sir William Morton is now upon the floor in this chapel. Originally it was fixed to the wall.

This monument is divided into three portions. The two outer portions each bear the Morton arms upon a lozenge, viz. 'quarterly, 1st and 4th, a goat's head erased, 2nd and 3rd, ermine.' The first side bears the name of Ann Morton, the eldest, and the second side the name of Magdalen Morton, the youngest, daughter of Sir William, who were both buried upon the 25th of August, 1670. The middle portion bears a shield with the arms of Morton impaling Smith, and the crest of Morton, a goat's head erased. The inscription is 'William Morton, sonn of Sir William, died 1652.' He was aged four years. Beneath are the lines:—

'Beauty nor vertue, youth nor innocence
Against y^e strokes of death were our defence
Three children to our parents deare, we lie
Loe here in hopes of blest eternitie
Christ who dy'ed for us, is risen, not in vaine
To justifie us that wee may rise againe.'

The above arms, with the following inscription, are upon the gable end of the Alms-houses founded by Sir William Morton :—

‘To God and the poor of Kidlington
And to the pious memory of the
Vertuous Lady Ann Morton
And her deceased children, Sir Will.
Morton, knt., late one of his Majesty’s
Justices of the Court of Common Pleas,
Dedicated this foundation, anno D. 1671.’

Near at hand are the graves of the parents of Lady Morton, John and Magdalen Smith. Sir William Morton and his wife are buried in the Temple Church, London. A slab, now mutilated, but supplied from Rawlinson,

‘Two shields, one blank, on the other this coat, viz. on a fesse dancetté between three roses, a crescent;’

about it is engraved :—

‘Here lyeth the body of John Smith, Gent., Master of Arts and some time Student of Christ Church, who departed the 2^d May in the year 1654, aged 80 years.’

His wife’s monument is perfect. The shield in a lozenge, viz., Smith, as before, impaling ‘gules, a fesse between three crescents, a canton ermine,’ a crescent for difference. This is for Holloway, the inscription,

‘Here lyeth the body of Mrs. Magdalen Smith, wife of Mr. John Smith adjacent a . . . of greate prudence, vertue, faith and piety and mother to the most vertuous lady Ann Morton, who died the 12 day of December in the year of our Lord 1665 ¹.’

The only brass in this church, and the oldest inscription remaining, lies here to one of the Fitzherberts. It is one foot by eighteen inches in size. There were originally three of these small plates, the top one of which now alone remains :—

‘Here lyeth Hum. Fitzherbert of Begbroke, Esq^{re}, Deceased in the true faith of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ the 23^d June anno Do^{mi} 1617, beinge of the age of 65 years, the sonne and heir of John Fitzherbert of Uphall in the county of Hartford, Knight, having issue by Ursula his wife, daughter of Thomas Waringe of Berryhall, in the county of Warwicke, Esq^{re}, eight sonns and three daughters.’

The second plate contained the names of the children. The third plate contained a coat of eight quarterings; all of which will be found in the history of Begbroke.

¹ Refer to pedigree, p. 98.

Upon the altar step lie William Pudsey and his wife side by side. This family followed Judge Morton at Hampden Manor. The first stone bears the following:—

‘Here lyeth the body of Captain William Pudsey who departed y^s life Oct. the 6th, 1729, aged 45 years, and also Here lyeth the body of William John Pudsey, son of Capt. Pudsey, who departed this life Jan. 8th, 1730, aged 1 year.’

The second stone:—

‘Here lieth the body of Ann, daughter of John Welshman, Esq^{re}, of Brackley, Northants, whose 1st husband was Mr. Roger Almont of this Parish, 2nd Captain William Pudsey. She departed this life in the true faith of Christ Aug. 10th, 1757, aetatis suae 61—and near her are interred the bodies of two Williams, Humphrey St. Barbe and Mary Sydenham her grandchildren, offspring of John and Ann Sydenham, who all died in their infancy.’

Next lies the father of these children,

‘Rev^d. John Sydenham ob. 28 Oct., 1788 anno, aetat. 68.’

In the north aisle, known as Conant’s aisle, used as the Vestry. The earliest in date here is the tomb of Henry Streete¹, a large slab upon the floor bearing a shield with the arms of Streete impaling West, and two crests, which are shown in the Pedigree. The inscription:—

‘Hic requiescit corpus Henrici Streete Generosi filii Woodhulli Streete Generosi obiit 30 Martii aō. Do^mi 1686, annos natus 46. Hoc marmor charissimo marito Maria uxor moerens posuit. Spe felicitis resurrectionis hic post annos 31 cum Henrico Streete decubuit Maria olim Tori, tandem sarcophagi consors obiit uxor chara Joh. Conant, LL.D., 27 Martii anno Dⁿi 1717, aetatis suae 75. Mulier pia proba amicis et pauperibus benigna.’

Henry Streete was buried next to his father, whose epitaph, according to Rawlinson, ran thus:—

‘In hope of a happy resurrection here lies the body of Woodhull Streete, Esq^{re}, senior Gent., who departed this life Feby. 10, 1680¹, being 81 years.’ Close by is the tomb of Dr. Conant, the second husband of Mrs. Streete. His arms surmount it and are cut in low relief upon the stone. The inscription,

‘Johannes Conant LL.D., obiit Aug. 23, 1723, aetatis suae 71.’

¹ Pedigree, p. 78.

Upon the wall is a tablet with the following inscription and the arms as above :—

‘H. S. E. Johannes Conant, LL.D., Johannis Conant S.T.P. | Inter doctissimos aevi sui | Theologos semper memorandi ux : Elizabethae | Filiae Eduardi Reynolds Norvicensis Episcopi | Filius natu maximus | Vir religionis cultu varia eruditione et morum comitate | Inter primos spectabilis | Haud ullis impar muneribus | sed ruris maluit recessum | quippe qui satis duxit meruisse | quas non ambivit dignitates | I. B. I. | Dum nimis heu studijs vacavit | In Arthritidis dolores incidit | Quibus diu afflictus tandem succubuit | omnibus desideratissimus, Aug. 23. 1723 aetate 71 | Maria uxor prope humata | Hoc quaecumque marmor | Exiguum magni amoris Indicium | Moriens legavit.’

Close by, also upon the north wall, is the white marble tablet to the memory of the wife of Dr. Joseph Smith, Provost of Queen’s College. He was buried in Oxford.

‘Sacred to the memory of Revd. Joseph Smith, D.D., Chief Lord of the Manor, descended from an ancient family of Durham and of Knaresbro’ in the co. of York. He was Provost of Queen’s College, Oxford, to which he was unanimously elected without his privity or knowledge, and Prebendary in the Cathedral Churches of St. Paul’s and Lincoln, Chaplain in Ordinary to Queen Caroline, and above 40 years Rector of St. Dionis, London, which he held with the Donative of Paddington in Middlesex, and in the younger part of his life the Secretary to the Treaty of Reischwick when Sir Joseph Williamson was Plenipotentiary and Ambassador there. He was distinguished for his extraordinary abilities and learning, his great piety, charity, eloquence, and politeness of manners, and during his many years government there he presided no less to his own credit than to the considerable advantage of this college, and discharged himself in his several stations with very great reputation. He died Nov. 23rd, 1756, aetate 86. He married Mary, daughter and co-heir of Henry Lowther, Esq^{re}, of Ingleton Hall in co. of York and of Lowther in the co. of Fermanagh and Grand-daughter of Col. Sir Richard Lowther, Governor of Pontefract Castle and Master of the Ordnance to King Charles 1st, and was nearly allied to the Right Honourable Baron Lowther, Lord Viscount Lonsdale, and lineally descended from Lionel Plantagenet, 3rd son of King Ed. 3rd thro’ the lines of Clifford, Percy and Mortimer. The said Lady Smith died April 29th, 1745, and was buried here, leaving issue one son Joseph Smith, Esq^{re}, of Kidlington, and one daughter Anne, the wife of Major James Hargreaves of Oxford, who married for her first husband, Wm. Lamplugh, Prebendary of Lincoln, Grandson of Thomas Lamplugh, Archbishop of York. Here also are interred with the said Mary Smith¹ and Anne Hargreaves, Barbara, relict of George Wilson, Esq^{re}, of the co. of Berks, sister to the said Mary Smith; Lydia Smith, the 1st wife of the said Joseph Smith, who died 20 Jan., 1745, leaving no issue; Mary and Thomas Smith

¹ Pedigree, p. 78.

died infants and were children of the said Joseph Smith and Elizabeth his wife the only daughter of James Bouchier, LL.D., of Handborough in the co. of Oxon, late the King's Professor of Law at Oxford.'

A shield of nine quarterings over this inscription, which is given with the pedigree. Under the above tablet is another to their daughter:—

'To the memory of Mrs. Anne Hargreaves buried near this place who departed this life Sept. 11th, 1762, aged 48, who was daughter of Revd. Joseph Smith, Provost of Queen's Coll. at Oxford, wife of James Hargreaves, Esq^{re}, and mother of Joseph Smith Hargreaves. Also to the memory of the before named James Hargreaves who departed this life on the 22nd day of Dec^r, 1783, and to the memory also of the before named Revd. Joseph Smith Hargreaves, who was son, &c., but who for several years before his death was called Hargreaves.'

He died in 1807, aged fifty-four. A small slab upon the floor in the corner to Mary Smith, the date illegible, appears to belong to this family. The hatchments now hanging in the Thrup aisle were once here, with the banners of the High Sheriff. The banners, which had probably belonged to Humphrey Smith, of the Farmington family, who was High Sheriff in 1704, excited the awe of the country folks and were commonly supposed by them to have been captured from the Danes!

Hatchment with coat belonging to the 2nd wife of Dr. J. Smith, LL.D. She was Elizabeth Bouchier.—On a lozenge, divided into five parts. The four first, *Smith* (as below), *Plantagenet*, *Lowther*, *Lucy*; the fifth, 'sable, a chevron between three leopards passant,' for *Bouchier*.

Hatchment belonging to Dr. J. Smith, LL.D.—On a shield, quarterly. 1st, *Smith*, quarterly; 1st and 4th, on a bend three lance heads, between two unicorns' heads; 2nd and 3rd, a tower on a mount; on a chief, three storks' heads; 2nd, six annulets for *Lowther*; on a canton, a 'baronet's hand.' 3rd, the same. 4th, a chevron between three leopards, for *Bouchier*. Over all an escutcheon of pretence, 'per pale, azure and gules, a cross or engrailed' for Barney. Motto, 'Turris fortissima nomen Domini.'

Hatchment with coat probably belonging to Dr. Joseph Smith's second son, Harris Smith, who also married a Miss Bouchier.—On a shield, the arms the same as on his mother's hatchment, surmounted by a crest; 'on a helmet an arm mailed, embowed, grasping a tilting-spear, broken.' Motto, 'Ascendam.'

In the north aisle behind the organ are a number of stones, most of them obliterated, to the Saunders family; there were fourteen in various parts of the church; several to Cozier and Jolly, farmers and tradesmen in the village. The Thrup or north transept contains the tombs of the Brents. We only have the inscription of one which is preserved in Rawlinson, B 400 F:—

‘Here lyeth the body of Roger Brent, Lord of the Manor of Thrupp. He married Frances the daughter of Robert Mayott, Esq^{re}, and by her had two sons and one daughter. He died April 23rd, 1694, aged 53.’

This had the Brent arms over the inscription.

The Mayotts came from Abingdon. The Hutts of Thrup are buried here from 1789 to 1812; also one of the Tyrrell family, a child, 1763.

Beginning now with the cross aisle from south to north we find

‘John Paty, Gent., died 1668, 27 Feby.¹’

This stone does not now exist, nor do we know anything of the person. Then three stones to William Butler, his two wives, one of them a Wild, and two children, date 1763 to 1795. Another to Richard and Martha Wild and their two sons, John and Richard, dated 1828. Close by the present organ are three stones to the Bradfords, two brothers and the wife of one of them. They were bell-ringers for many years, and one of them Parish Clerk, and they were buried exactly under the bells which they used to ring, at that time rung from the floor, the fifth and the tenor bell. When the large heating apparatus was put in, which was irreverently known as the ‘Lightfoot Monument,’ the Bradfords’ stones were moved. At this same time so little care was taken of the dead that the coffins in the vaults were cut through, and many of the Smiths who lie beneath were decapitated.

‘John Bradford died Jan. 22, 1782, aged 57 years.’

Richard Bradford died November 18th, 1779, aged sixty-two years. Close beside these are six slabs covering the Smiths of Iffley, from 1752 to 1805. All we are able to say about them is to be found at page 87. Going down the middle aisle the first stone is to Daniel Ellis, 1809, son of the Clerk of the day. Then several stones to the Wilds, many worn out—Elizabeth and William Wild, 1819 and 1826; and Mary, the wife of Nicholas Wild, 1783; also Nicholas and Mary, his second wife, 1812 and 1824. Two better cut stones to Mary and Thomas Haslett, 1769 and 1782. One to Elizabeth Henley and Martha Hirst, her grand-daughter, 1787 and 1793. Three to Richard

¹ Can this be the person who gave his name to ‘Pady’s Gap’? see p. 124.

Smith, his wife and son, 1777, 1780, and 1820. At the very bottom of the church lie Philip Hanwell, 1807, and John and Ralph Sanders, 160 . . . In the cross passage beginning at the south door,

‘Anne, wife of Bond Spindler, who died 31 March, 1831, aged 45 years.’

She was a Goodson, which family had Lyne House, also a farm at Thrup, and her children are buried in the south aisle in the Newmans’ tomb. Several more to the Goodsons, which are illegible,

‘John Goodson aged 104 years—1802 and his family.’

A small square stone covers the entrance to a vault, which bears the initials E. N., 1800; M. A. B., 1809; R. P., 1818; referring to the three daughters of Edward Nicholls of the mill. The first who died was unmarried, the second wife of W. Baxter, a printer in Oxford; and the third the widow of G. Payne. These Nicholls are the same family as those of Holywell Mill.

In the south aisle beginning at the east end are: Mary, wife of Wm. Young, 1769; Hanwell, 1787; Cozier; Watts, 1817, and his wife, 1793; and at the very bottom, Blacknall Carter and Ann his wife. She was a Smith, daughter of John Smith, of Iffley. Upon the pillar opposite to south door is a tablet with the names of several of the Smith family, who lie in the vault beneath. They are the same family with those buried under the belfry. The last interred here was Miss Eliz. Matilda Avis Smith, who died in Summertown in 1886. The vault was opened for her, and a most unpleasant scene ensued. Two tablets upon the pillars of the tower as follows:—

‘Sacred to the memory of Mary Hitchcock of Albemarle Street in the Parish of St. George’s, Hanover Square, London, who was born in this parish; died 25th day of Dec., 1830, aged 59.’

‘In memory of William James, who died Nov. 6, 1800, aged 63 years, also of Mary his wife, who died Dec. 13, 1801, aged 65.’

THE CHOIR OF THE CHURCH.

The Tenants of the Rectory farm head the list of those who were buried in the chancel. First in date is Edward Standard and his two wives; the first, Elizabeth Holloway, is buried with her grandson; the second, Margaret Fifield, is with him; the three epitaphs as follows:—

‘Here lies the body of Edward Standard, Gent., who departed this life 21st day of April, an dñi 1641.’

With this is a shield impaling Standard and Fifield.

‘Here lieth the body of Margaret Standard, wife of Edward Standard, Gent., and daughter of Thomas Fifield of Farmington, in co. Gloster, Gent., who departed this life 31 Aug^t, 1643.’ Rawlinson.

‘Subciniscunt (*sic*) contiguo solo | Caelicolae Eliza avia et | Edouardus Standard nepos | Octennis filius et haeres Johis Standard Albomontani | Eiusdemq man : dom : armig : Quem ei peperit Brigitta | Lenthallorum stemmate nobilitata qui | anginam¹ (fugiens) intempestive praepr | opere invenit fatum. | Me sine abis dilecte neque | amplius ibimus una | . Tristis et afflictim p. f. p. p. I. S. T. 1629.’

Translation of Edward Standard’s monumental inscription:—

‘Under the neighbouring ground rest together
Inhabitants of heaven, Eliza, grandmother, and
Edward Standard², grandson,
An eight year old son and heir
Of John Standard of Whitehill
And Lord of that Manor, Esquire,
Whom there bore to him Bridget
By her descent from the Lenthalls
Ennobled, who (fleeing from) ?
Suffering unseasonably
Too early found his fate.
Thou art gone without me beloved, nor
Any more shall we walk together.
Sad and afflicted p. f. p. p.
I St. 1629.

John Standard³ mentioned in this inscription was the eldest son of Edward Standard above. He was Rector of and is buried at Tackley, where an altar tomb formerly stood in the churchyard, bearing this inscription:—

‘Standard vexillifer signifer hic jacet | Caelestis veteranus praeco tacet | Catholicus Christianus vixit et omnia dixit | Mundanis exercitibus pertaesus valedixit. Who lived 66 years obiit 16 die Dēbris 1647.’

One might suppose from the foregoing that Dr. John Standard had been a famous preacher in his day. The arms of Standard and Lenthall are carved above the stone to Edward the younger. Next were two which are now destroyed,

‘Thomas Standard, Gent., who departed 20 Feby., 1686, aged 69.’

¹ After the word ‘qui’ is added ‘fugiens’ in one MS. (Rawlinson, 397). This word is broken out of the stone.

² ‘Edward, son of John Standard, doc. of divinitie, bur. Oct. 30.’ Par. Register.

³ Pedigree, p. 51.

‘Margaret, the wife of Thomas Standard, Gent., who departed this life 16 day of May, 1703, of her age 77.’

A stone to the infant daughter, Margaret, of the above, 1650, and another to Dorothy Standard, 1751, aged seventy, complete the number of this family. Against the north wall is a black marble tablet, inlaid with white stone, on the top an urn, from which hang festoons of flowers, and on each side is a woman standing in a mournful attitude, and in capitals is this inscription:—

‘To the memory of Thomas Smith, Esq^{re}, and Alice his wife sole daughter and heiress of Thomas Standard, Gent., and Margaret his wife, who likewise lie interred near this place. She died Sept. 22nd, he died Oct. 11, 1706. Also of Humphrey Smith, Esq^{re}, eldest son and heir of the above Thomas and Alice who exchanged this life for immortality Aug. 22, 1716. Likewise Mary, the wife of the above Humphrey Smith, who died Jan. 5, 1722, aged 42 years.’

The arms of Smith and Standard are below, viz., a ‘spread eagle’ for Smith impaling an arrow. Formerly on a black marble stone on south side of the altar:—

‘Reliquiae Humphredi Smith de Kidlington in agro Oxon armiger. ob. 22 Aug., 1716, aetat. 44.’

‘Hic jacet expectans resurrectionem Maria Smith, Hum. Smith olim marita—Vitam reliquit Die 4 Jan., 1722.’

Underneath the wall tablet on north side were two black diamond escutcheons as follows:—

‘Subjacent Reliquiae Gulielmi Smith filii natu minimi Thomae Smith et Alicie uxoris ejus, qui 17 annos et—mens—e vita cessit 19 die martii, 1695.’ ‘Here lyeth the body of Elizabeth Smith, youngest daughter of Thomas Smith and Alice his wife, who died 4 Sept., 1698.’

Just below the step upon the south side are two handsome black slabs, with an escutcheon upon each, surrounded by lambrequins, bearing the spread eagle and the eagle’s head erased as crest. The first covers the remains of the above-named Thomas and Alice Smith, and a capital T. A. with the following verse are engraved upon it:—

‘Reader here lies under this stone | The dust of two who were but one | Long had they lived and lov’d, she fled the way | Of heaven first he could no longer stay | But strait pursued her to ye throne above | w^h saints surround crowned with eternal Love.’

The second slab bears the crescent for difference, and is in memory of their second son, who died shortly after them:—

‘Hic sub saxo prope parentes Thomam et Aliciam nuper defunctos, jacet Thomas Smith: aul: S. Mar: Magd: a: m: qui post tredecem mens. in languorem an: sal: 1707 aetat. 33 morti libere concessit.’

This gives us the death of three sons and one daughter of this family, and in all probability there were no descendants. At all events the family seems to have been carried on by another branch. Thomas Smith, of Cassington, who died in 1761, and whose name, cut above the epitaph of the preceding Thomas, has caused no small confusion. This individual is the same with the Thomas commemorated upon the chancel wall:—

‘ Thomas Smith of Headington Hill ¹ who died Sep. 19th, 1761, aged 57. Also 8 of his children ; Humphrey, William, Richard, Francis, Humphrey, Elizabeth, Dorothy and John, who died abroad. This monument was erected &c. by his eldest son Thomas Smith, surgeon of St. Thomas’ hospital, London. Also of Elizabeth, wife of the above named Thomas Smith, Esq^{re}, who died 9th day of Sept., 1775, aged 73.’

Thomas the surgeon sold the property in Gloucestershire in 1787.

Upon the south wall of the chancel hangs another tablet to this family, children of the last mentioned, viz., William Smith, of Headington Hill, who died in 1793 ; his brother, the above-named Thomas, died 1784, the surgeon ; Thomas’ wife, Frances, died 1783 ; and Elizabeth, the last survivor, died 1825, aged eighty-two. The remaining property now passed to another branch, who had been settled at Iffley, but the ready money was left to Tyrrell Knapp, said to be nephew, £40,000, with the Headington Hill property.

Other graves upon the floor of the choir are, six inscriptions to the family of Dickenson, dating from 1759 to 1803. Of these we can say nothing except that there was a family of the name living at the Manor Farm (where the Dods used to be). Next come the Almonts, who owned Grove House and the adjoining land. Edward Almont, who died 1673 ; Ann, his wife, 1699, and with her, Rebekah Newland, who was born an Almont. Then James Almont, 1725, aged seventy-two, steward of Magdalen College, and public notary. Another stone to . . . Austin, Esqr., 1783, and Elizabeth, his wife, 1794, who, I believe, was an Almont, and one more to William Almont Austin, son of William and Elizabeth Austin, who died 1801, upon his twentieth birthday. The stone was inscribed by his two sisters. Another slab is to the memory of Mrs. Frank Harris, daughter of Mr. Thomas Harris and Elizabeth his wife, 1709, aged twenty-one. This young girl was probably a cousin to Dr. Joseph Smith’s family. Elizabeth Bouchier, his wife, was daughter to Elizabeth Harris. They

¹ The property mentioned here is Headington Hill, or the Rise, in the parish of St. Clement.

There were five tombs to the Tyrrells, of the Rectory farm, ranging from 1742 to 1796. One to Robert Buswell, Gent., 1800, aged sixty-eight.

‘Joseph Haynes died 1769, aged 73.’

The old place behind the mill was known as Haynes’ corner; and lastly, to the old minister who managed the parish affairs through the days of trouble during the Civil Wars,

‘Hic jacet Richardus Prideaux Ecclesiae Presbyter Anglicanae Sepultus est novembris decimo quinto dñi 1666 annos natus plus minus 76.’

In Sydenham aisle a white marble tablet to the memory of

‘Johannes Collier Jones. Collegii hujus per annos XIX Rector. Natus Plymptoniae in com. Devon non. October an. S. M.D.CCLXX. In Vico Oban argathaliensium spiritum Deo reddidit VII die Aug. a. S. 1838. Corpus ubi mori contigit depositum. Virum facilem, simplicem, humanum, Rectorem integerrimum, amicum desideratissimum inani eheu hoc munere prosecuta est scholarium pietas.

Antiquo Collegii Exoniensis sacello diruto hoc monumentum huc translatum est A. S. 1862.’

Here ends the mortuary of our church, and by these few pages we may perhaps hope to keep in memory some of the names of those who once lived and died here and who have helped to make our parish history.

The last Rector and Vicar of the Parish is buried in the churchyard. Dr. John Prideaux Lightfoot, March 23, 1887, aged 84. Also his first wife, Mrs. Eliza Anne Lightfoot, Nov. 21, 1860, aged 50.

The altar-shaped tomb to the Shards bears the following:—

‘Here lyeth interred the Body of Mr. John Shard who died in the true faith of Christ Sep. 16 MD.CXCV aged 75 years. Here also lyeth interred the Body of Mrs. Elizabeth Shard his wife, who departed this life in the year of our Lord 1711, aged 91 years. Also Mrs. Sarah, daughter of John and Elizabeth Shard, who died 1680, aged 18 years¹.’

¹ The Roman figures above, though oddly placed, probably mean 1695.

CHAPTER XII.

SOME ACCOUNT OF POPULAR AFFAIRS IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

IN bringing this history to a close it will be interesting to record some events and phases in the life of the people, how they lived, how they amused themselves, and what passing occurrences occupied their minds. An examination of the parish books affords us an amusing insight into the everyday life and doings of the villagers. The overseers' accounts are extant from the year 1686, and from their minuteness many interesting details may be gathered. In the extracts here given the original spelling is preserved. The overseers were concerned with the personal care of the poor upon their books, and every item of clothing, food, and medicine is entered in their accounts. Richard Burgen was the parish tailor, and in the year 1690, as 150 years later, the family made and patched for the parishioners.

'Pd. Richard Burgen for making and stuff for a gown for Iron's biggest girl and a boddis coat for the least, and for repairing their old cloathes.' 'For Irons' daughter 10 yards of "Protestant crape" for a gown and a petty coat.'

We do not know what kind of material this 'Protestant crape' may have been, but no doubt it had been some fashionable stuff for ladies' gowns called after the 'Protestation' of 1643.

'Making a stiven gown, a pair leather breeches, a pair of pattens, a pair of bodys and a stomacher and all manar of cloase,'

and so on for years. The birth and christening of pauper children was a constant care, and they were well looked after both in their temporal and spiritual wants.

'Pd. 2/ for the birth of Ann Putlock's child; for clothes and capps for the child; gave the Gossips 3/10^d. Pd. Michael Webb when a travelling woman lay in there; Pd. when Mary Wild's child was born and baptised;

for fire, candles and Goody Young looking after her. Goody Lucas for nursing the child two weeks and burying the child. Paid Jones for ceaping Mary Boiles and chrising her child. For bread and cheese when Goody Lester was brote to bed and the child crisned; when she had the Ago; when she laid in and wante welle.'

This Lester family was a constant source of trouble and expense to the parish; the man was a journeyman baker, and made many vain attempts to settle himself elsewhere, but was constantly ejected and brought back again to his parish.

The overseers had also the charge of seeing that their people were legally married, and many amusing items refer to this.

'Paid for a warrant to take Michael Smith and for a license and for the minister marrying him.'

The said Michael Smith promised Dr. Conant and the overseers to pay five shillings at intervals towards paying for his license.

'Pd. for a license for Ann Swift and for a wedding ring for the marriage; paid the man (Cook) his portion £2 2 0 and for going with them to Oxford. Expenses taking Jacob Wildduck, marrying him and taking him to his parish £5 8 0. Jonathan Broad's wedding dinner and expenses cost £2 14 6, and taking him and his wife to Goosey 18/.

Goosey is near Abingdon. Then comes the care of the sick in their own homes, and in occasional cases taking them to the Hospital in Oxford or in London.

'Pd the Nose for setting hop with Judith Brown; paid Inglant's wife for nosing of White's; for a bottle of Daffy's for W. Smith: when Thomas Hanwell was at Bath. Pd. James Hunt for carrying Steven Putlock to Oxford to Mr. Moore's the Schyrgeon; for kqwering of Steven Putlock, £1 0 0; for setting Nich. Morris child's arm 10/. Pd. when Lester's girl's thigh was set, messenger going to Woodstock and for filletting, bran, &c. Pd. Mr. Heberdine of Woodstock for setting the girl's thigh £3 3 0. Spent at Gosford upon Widdo Howse's son's account, one them that carried him hom and the surgeon when his thie was broke, 3/- gave a messenger to goo to Woodstock to Mr. Heberdine that he need not come for the widdo Howse's son; paid Tho^s Hill for a coffin for Howse's child; pd. Mr. Bety his fee for burying widdo Howse's son; paid Mr. Curtis the surgan for seting the widdo Howse's son's thigh £2 12 6.

There we have a whole idyll of a country sorrow, the accident and death to the widow's son, and in the homely accents the care and interest of the neighbours is clearly seen.

The dead, according to an Act of Parliament, were to be buried in wool; the upper classes of course used woollen shrouds, but among the poor, plain carded wool seems to have been frequently used.

‘Gave widdow Harris for srowding Ann Sparrow and for worsted for her ; for wool and carding it for to put on Goody Otley ; for wool to lay Otley’s boy in. Going to fetch the parson for Berying Otley’s boy,’ &c., &c., &c.

THE LADY OF THE LAMB.

Amongst the sports and revelries which our forefathers delighted in that of the Lady of the Lamb was common to many villages in this part of Oxfordshire. The following account of how the sport was carried on in Kidlington has been handed down to us by Mr. Thomas Blount, who probably had been an eye-witness to the scene. He was connected with Oxfordshire through his mother, one of the Bustards of Adderbury. He writes—

‘At Kidlington in Oxon the custom is that on Monday in Witson week there is a fat live Lamb provided and the Maids of the Town, having their thumbs tied behind them, run after it, and she that with her mouth takes and holds the Lamb is declared Lady of the Lamb ; which being dressed with the skin hanging on, is carried on a long pole before the Lady and her companions on the Green, attended with Music and a Morris Dance of Men and another of Women ; when the rest of the day is spent in Dancing, Mirth and Glee. The next day the Lamb is part baked, part boiled and roast for the Lady’s feast, when she sits majestically at the upper end of the tables and her companions with her, with music and other attendants, which ends the solemnity¹.’

Hearne remarks

‘Mr. Blount does not tell us the reason of this custom, but I am told ’tis upon account of the inhabitants being Toll free in Oxford and other places. I was told yesterday that the same custom belonged formerly to Wightham in Berks².’

This custom was carried out at Ensham, in a slightly different manner. There the prettiest girl of the parish was chosen, and after catching the Lamb, she rode, in gay attire, the foremost horse of

¹ Blounts’s Jocular Tenures. Ancient Tenures, published by Beckwith, York, 1784. Mr. Thomas Blount was son of Miles Blount of Orleton, Herefordshire, his mother a Bustard of Adderbury. He was a zealous Catholic, and on account of the persecution following upon the ‘Oates plot’ he was harried

from place to place and his health destroyed. He died in 1680, aged 61. Through his mother, Anne Bustard, Mr. Blount was related to the Freres of Water Eaton, see pedigree.

² Hearne’s Diary, ed. Bliss, 1857, p. 489.

the team which brought home the Lamb¹. The last girl who rode in this procession at Ensham was Sarah Stayt, who lived for many years in Kidlington, in the house marked 132 upon the map, and died there subsequently to 1840.

Another old custom here now disused was the Easter cake. The charge for making and baking the cake² was duly charged to the Churchwardens every Easter. Occasionally it was taken round to the people in their houses, and sometimes they went for it to the church. The last year in which it was made was 1811, and an old man in the Alms-house, James Butler, remembers his mother going to fetch it.

The Club Feast is held in Kidlington on the first Thursday in June, this and the Lamb Ale are probably remnants of the Feast of the Lamb in Whitsun-week.

The village feast or wake occurs upon the Sunday following the 19th September; counting according to the old style, this represents the feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, 8th September, no doubt the feast of the *original* dedication of the church. The second dedication in 1336 we know to have occurred in June³.

There seems to have been a well-established school in Kidlington and the school-house⁴ was the building afterwards used as the village workhouse. Mr. Roger Almont left a legacy of £2 a year to provide schooling for two boys. We know that several middle class schools flourished here later on. The girls were taught spinning at little schools in the cottages, as lately was the case in all the villages in the northern part of the county, where women kept schools for the little girls to learn to use their lace pillow. Work was given out to the poor by the overseers, principally spinning and weaving. Nathaniel Faulkner provided the hemp and flax which was weighed out to the women, and charged at the rate of 1s. to 1s. 4d. a pound for spinning flax and 4d. a pound for spinning hemp, and weaving

¹ From the relation of Miss Frances Symonds of Kidlington, who knew her well.

² 'Baking the Easter cake; carrying about and spent 15s. 6d.' Churchwarden's book for 1800. See p. 136.

³ On p. 17 we see that Bishop Burghwash was here in June. In the account of the Vicarage, p. 35, we read of four feasts, the Dedication of the Church

and the Nativity of our Lady are separate days.

⁴ '1709, Paid Richard Lumbley for putting up old glass in the school-house, 8d.' 'Paid Mr. Smith for the glass, 1s. 4d.' 'Paid William Kery a bill for work, wood, and nayles used in the school, and other work there, 16s. 4½d.'

40 ells of cloth was paid 9s. The price of the hemp was about $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ per pound, and flax 16s. to 20s. the dozen pounds. The spinning-wheels were provided for the women, and the girls in the schools were paid 6d. a day. The account of the linen cloth made by these poor people was regularly audited and signed by the Churchwardens and two magistrates. In 1710, thirty-six ells were made, and the account signed by Dr. Conant and Humphrey Smith.

The men were provided with pickaxes, but wheelbarrows were scarce and they were hired. In the latter part of the century work was abundant upon the roads, and several new roads were made across the 'Field.'

The younger members of the community out of school-hours had ample employment in catching sparrows and hedgehogs, polecats and bats, which were paid for at the rate of 4d. each for hedgehogs, 2d. a dozen for sparrows, with or without heads, and bats in one year amounted to the sum of £2 4s., surely an argument for repairing the church roof. Also cow-keeping and bringing up the cows on the Common were ordinary employments. The parish officers at this time were as follows—

'Two Church Wardens; Two Tythingmen; One Greensman; Two Fieldsmen; Two Surveyors of Highway; One Field Keeper; One Herdsman; Two Pounders for the Green.'

This last office suggests the Pound, which now lies open to all, but where formerly all stray cattle were 'pounded' until the fine was paid by the owner; the parish, however, having to provide keep for such animals.

In 1735 it was decided by a Vestry that a workhouse should be built for the poor receiving weekly relief, where they might all be gathered under one roof and be under the management of some competent person. The old school-house was voted for the purpose, and the necessary funds were provided for adapting it to its new use. Mr. Robert Rand was appointed to conduct the business and a superintendent was installed in the House. This was all very well, but the people principally concerned were evidently very unwilling to acquiesce in the new arrangement. Their weekly pay was stopped and then they all went in a body to Woodstock before the Magistrates to remonstrate. It was not until a week's pay was promised in advance and compensation made them for loss of time in moving, that they were at last safely housed in the new House. The House

seems first to have been adapted for ten inmates, and the inventory of furniture is amusing and certainly not extravagant :—

‘Eight trenchers and a ladle, a brewing kettle and bale, a cole rake, oven lid and peel, a load of faggots and £5 worth of linen from Sayer the Scotchman.’

This with a few beds and what the people brought of their own, constituted the equipment of the House.

As each parish was at this time responsible for its own inhabitants, a vigilant watch was kept upon strangers and a constant correspondence was carried on with various parishes upon this subject. Armed with a Magistrates’ order the truants were at once sent home before they could lay claim to a settlement elsewhere. William Lester and his family proved a source of trouble for years, and fetching him home, housing him and keeping his family was no small expense. On the other hand strangers who intruded themselves into this village were carried away and deposited in their own parishes—

‘Expenses attending J. B. Perrot, examining him to his parish and marrying him to Charlotte Mitchell £3 16 6.’

One Mary Saunders had to be bargained with to persuade her to go, and she was at last duly put into the waggon and, under the charge of Mr. Bellinger, taken to London. One Otley caused much trouble and expense by getting into the hands of the law. He was carried to Witney and Woodstock before the Justices, committed to Bridewell in Oxford, and Sergeant Painton, then a resident here, was employed to defend him.

William Matthews, upon being wanted, gave the slip to the Overseers, and, after a hot chase through Woodstock and Bicester, he was at length caught at Brackley and brought back, costing the exasperated Overseers 5*s.* 10*d.* in the chase. This was about a child which he tried to foist upon the parish, and his family were all eventually consigned to New Woodstock, where he practised as a barber. We have an account of a mad woman in the village of the name of Morris and the treatment of the day :—

‘Paid John Enstone for leeting of Susanna Morris’ blood three times 3/, pd. for oltering of a chane for S. Morris when she was mad; pd. Goody Morris for looking to Susanna; pd. John Newell for seting by her bedsted when she was mad; for caring Shusanna Morris to Lousehall and for caring her clatts and fuill to Lousehall and for a lock.’

The apprenticing poor children to trades was also a source of general interest. If an illegitimate child had been supported by the rates, he was bound apprentice for seven years at 11 years of age, the indentures and expenses costing the parish about £4. The neighbours met and talked and drank over the matter, showing the common interest of the community in each one of its members at a time when the village was the home of all from birth to death.

In 1712 the stone-pit at Hardwick¹ was opened: it was rented from Ann Springwell, widow, for twelve years, at the rent of 15s. In 1855 the pit became exhausted and the land was exchanged with the Duke of Marlborough for another site. The parish of Bletchington bought a piece of land in 'Fernhill field' in 1719, out of some Poors' money, it was let to Widow Allen, and this plot of ground became the subject of a discussion before the Charity Commissioners in 1825. They showed that it had been sold again by the parish authorities to John Bellinger of Kidlington.

The following from Overseers' Books:—

'Paid Old England for 18 load of stone 6/. Do. for work done 12/.'

'Paid E. Nicholls for 6 days work and a 'Standing Thylor' £2 5 0.'

'Paid for making the Orch at Linkrafts geat 1/.'

This is the gate near the gravel-pits on the Bury Moor road.

'1797. Paid for a letter from Oxford concerning the Hair Powder 7½^d.'

This probably was about the custom in the Militia of wearing hair powder. The men were expected to find their own powder, and about this time *flour* being so dear they rebelled, and the order was rescinded.

'1798. Paid Scroggs, surveyor, the Mileway money £7 0 0.'

For this old tax see History of Yarnton.

'Paid innocently to Willoughby and his wife for beating his boy 2/6.'

'1800. Two swindling women 4/.'²

'1783. Paid for 6 Paddels 2/. Paid Betel's wife (Biddle) for Padeling Thissals 2/.'

1754. This year is noted for the General Election, which took place under the administration of the Duke of Newcastle, and which

¹ The indenture relating to this pit is in the church chest. For the Bletchington affair see Mr. Wing's little book. For the Election, see History of the Boroughs of England, 1794, also the Poll of Freeholders of Oxon, 1754, by

Blacknall.

² 'Swindle' is an old word for a spindle, and again, 'Swingel' means to beat flax. 'Paddles' are a kind of spud used for taking up docks, &c. Halliwell's Dict.

has left its mark upon the annals of Oxfordshire. The county interest for the three seats in Parliament was divided, the Duke of Marlborough held one in his own patronage, and the other two were dependent upon the interest of five men of rank in the county. For these two seats four candidates were proposed. In the Ministerial or New Interest, Viscount Parker and Sir Edward Turner; in the Court or Old Interest, Lord Wenman and Sir James Dashwood. The most bitter animosity prevailed on all sides, and so eager was each side to enlist every possible vote, that the most shadowy of claims were put forward. Here in Kidlington 55 votes were registered, 3 in Thrup, 2 in Water Eaton and 1 in Gosford. To produce this total upon a population which did not exceed 700, many men went to the Poll who were subsequently disallowed, and among them the three old men at the Alms-house and Mr. James Lamb, who were all pronounced to be disqualified as having no freehold here. The result of the Poll was the return of all four Candidates, which necessitated a fresh scrutiny of the lists, and after long and angry discussion, during which the opposition counsel proposed to disqualify no less than 540 voters of the opposite party, and his opponent 522 for the New Interest, the Election terminated by the return of Lord Parker and Sir Edward Turner. One of the political effusions of the time was entitled 'The Kidlington Canvass or the members in the Mud¹.' Richard Whiting of Kidlington Park voted for property at Rotherfield Greys, in the occupation of Henry Smith.

The great European war at the close of the 18th century affected the population of Kidlington equally with the rest of the country. Men had to be found for the Army and Navy at the public expense, and each parish contributed its quota. Kidlington provided a soldier and a sailor, not indeed out of its population, but paid by the rates. In 1795

'Paid Mr. Knapp for the Sailor £16 2 0'

occurs in the books, and

'Expenses going to Oxford to get a man for the Army 3/6, to Woodstock Justis A Bout finding a man for solder 2/, going to Oxford to see after a man for soldeur 2/6.'

¹ These verses, which are not worth repeating, were published in the Election Magazine, 1753. Gough, Oxford, 39.

Besides substitutes had to be provided for those who were drawn for the Militia and could not leave home.

‘Pd. the Overseers of St. Ebbs for the relief of Warrin’s wife and 2 children, which he being hired for a substitute to serve in the Oxfordshire Militia £8 5 0. For a substitute for Jeffs 2/6 a week. Towards a substitute for Joseph Hall on Lamale Munday £23.’

This charge fell heavy upon the parish, in one year amounting to £55 4s. An agent named Baxter was employed in procuring substitutes. When the war lingered on and men became scarce Government gave high bounties to those who would enlist. Two men here received £5 apiece for enlisting. The wives and families of men with the Army were often left in great distress and were ‘passed’ on from parish to parish until they reached their own homes. One year seven women and forty-seven children were thus relieved in Kidlington, and in Bristol the Magistrates apprehended, as a vagrant, the wife of a soldier in Colonel Hicke’s regiment which had just left the town. She was found to be the daughter of Mr. Jarvis of Kidlington, and was ‘passed’ home with her two children. It was not until 1821 that the Militia was disbanded. The memory of the panic which fell upon the country at the name of Napoleon is preserved to us in the name of ‘Tower Hill.’ Here was one of the towers erected for the object of telegraphing from one to another, by means of beacon fires, when the enemy might land upon the coast. The next tower to this stood on Wytham hill, overlooking Ensham. Thus was kept up to late times the old Border custom of the North, of signalling by fire from town to town. With the sorrows of war the people shared in the glory and rejoicing when news arrived of a great victory, the church bells rang out and thanksgiving was made by the country. The accounts of a merry peal

‘On account of the taking of Cape Breton and Cherbourg: of the Allied Armies beating the French in Germany; when the French fleet was defeated by Earl How; for Admiral Jarvis’ victory and a Thanksgiving Day for Peace.’

Muffled peals also told of sorrowful events.

‘A mourning peal for the loss of the brave Admiral Nelson.’ ‘A dumb peal for Princess Charlotte.’

The war being ended the attention of the people was turned to regulating their own affairs. The Rev. Mr. Field¹, who was Curate early in the present century, made a study of the matter and recorded his conclusions in the Register Book. He sums up the various influences which affected the population from decade to decade under the seven quaint headings of 'War, Epidemics, Parish Houses, Boarding Schools, Charity School, Inclosures and Baby Linen.' Glancing cursorily at these subjects we will follow up the village affairs. In the first decade of the century war was only present in the form of the Militia, which, owing to the draught of men kept the census below its natural figure; which remark may also be applied to the following ten years, during which time it only amounted to 736 souls. Notwithstanding this low number it was found advisable to erect more cottages for the Industrious Poor, and it was agreed by a Vestry to raise sufficient money to build ten new houses. For this purpose £40 was borrowed from the Old Club, and £100 was advanced by Mr. Hall, then tenant of the Rectory Farm. In 1802 there were forty-six persons receiving parish relief, and probably ensuing from the general distress and consequent abuse, it was found necessary to publish printed handbills against the practice of 'leazing,' in other counties called gleaning. Efforts were made to keep the men off the rates by the system of going the 'Rounds,' that is to say, a man out of work was kept in turn by the farmers and passed on from one to another, receiving 1s. a day from the parish. Smallpox is frequently mentioned, and patients were taken to a 'Pest House' at Cassington, and it is not until 1816 that the parish took public notice of the system of Innoculation.

The third decade was marked by a large increase in the population, owing partly to men returning from the Militia, partly from labourers being brought in to assist in the Enclosure, and partly from several boarding-schools being established in the village. Two schools kept by the Allen family², opposite each other in Church End, were

¹ Mr. Field was curate here in 1827, he and Mr. Arrowsmith, who succeeded him, ransacked and sorted the parish papers, and provided a chest for their reception. The previous neglect will account for the defects in the Register and the paucity of old documents, no Churchwarden's books exist prior to 1754, and no remaining accounts of Briefs or Mortuaries. Mr. Field was

appointed Bishop of Newfoundland in 1844. A collection amounting to £29 was made for him in this church. His arms are in the south window of the chancel, 1831, see p. 58.

² The Allen family had been long settled here. In their marriage licenses they are styled 'Cordwainers.' One of them was owner of Park farm, and one, Job, parish clerk.

respectively for boys and girls, and accommodated 100 boarders. Besides these there was the Training College for young women, belonging to the amalgamated Dioceses of Gloucester and Oxford. (They moved later on to Cheltenham under the management of Mrs. Hobart.) Miss Hanwell had also a respectable school in Black Horse Lane, which took ten or twelve pupils. The enclosure of Kidlington and Thrup was completed and the Award signed in 1821. As more room was still wanted for the increase in population, the Village Workhouse was enlarged, and the Overseers gave a lease of the old worn-out gravel-pits near the present railway station, to certain men who undertook to pay a yearly rent of 1s. a year for 21 years, build their own houses, and after that term pay 6d. a week upon each cottage erected.

The census was now 1153. The next twenty years were years of depression. The boarding-schools declined to half their former number, the stranger workmen went away, cheap schools and badly administered poor law and a plentiful supply of baby linen, according to Mr. Field, brought about a great amount of poverty. Sickness prevailed, smallpox and a low typhus fever, which was not checked until, in 1843, the open ditches¹ running down the village were covered over.

Coal was at this time brought by the canal and sold to the poor by the Overseers at the rate of 10d. the cwt., $\frac{1}{2}$ d. being charged for weighing it. The old parish coal-house stood with a group of six cottages upon the site in Church End marked 186.

After the destruction of timber during the civil war the country people were put to great straits for fuel, before the opening of the canal afforded an easier mode of carriage. Dr. Plot, who wrote in Charles II's reign, tells us—

‘that the scarcity of firing has induced some people to burn a sort of black substance, of a grain something like rotton wood half burnt and called *Lignum fossile* . . . it consumes but slowly and sends forth very unpleasant fumes; it is found in a pit or quarry called Langford Pitts in the parish of Kidlington not far from Thrup, about 18 foot deep under the rock, where it lies in a bed about four inches thick.’

He goes on to account for its existence in this quaint manner—

‘As for *Lignum fossile* it is thought to be originally a cretaceous earth, turned to what it is by subterraneous heats, which probably at Kidlington

¹ The ditch down the village street had once been a bright running stream spanned with cut stones. Neglect and

apathy had spoilt all, and a stagnant ditch and ponds were the result.

may indeed be very great, because reflected by the quarry about it, for that it was never wood, notwithstanding its specious and outward likeness, is plain, from its never being found with roots or boughs or any other signs of wood¹.

In 1836 the new Woodstock Union was established; but previous to the amalgamation of this parish with others, the Commissioners insisted that the debts should be cleared off, and that they should present themselves with clean hands. To this end a Vestry was called, when the determination was arrived at to sell a certain number of the parish houses in order to refund the money borrowed in 1808 for their erection, and to apply the surplus fund as the parish contribution towards the building of the new Union Workhouse. Consequently sixteen houses and the old village Poor-house, with two small plots of land, were sold². A special rate was levied to supply deficiencies and a sufficient sum was raised to repay the money borrowed from the Club and from others. The club money was paid at the Black Horse Inn to thirty-four surviving members, who each received a fraction over £1 9s. each.

In 1848 the new railway from Oxford to Birmingham was projected and land was required for the line. After some litigation a rood of land was sold to the Company by the parish, at Langford Lane, for the sum of £60, and the proceeds were laid out the following year in improving the footpaths and the pitched ways in the village.

Little now remains for us to record. Time and changes in the way of living have altered the aspect, both morally and physically, of our village, since the days in the early part of the present century, when we hear of the neighbouring gentry coming to church in six carriages³ and four, and when Kidlington yearly sent up to Covent Garden Market 6000 dozen apricots.

¹ Plot's Nat. Hist. Oxfordshire, pub. 1677, p. 65.

² The houses sold were: the Workhouse; six cottages and coal house, known facetiously as 'The Crescent;' three in Moor End; two in Black Horse Lane: five adjoining the Workhouse,

and half an acre of land.

³ The six equipages came respectively from Water Eaton, Thrup, Hampden Manor, Kidlington Manor House, the old house by the Mill, and Mann's house, near the church, called the Mansion.

II.

An account of the Registers as they were found in the year 1827 by Edward Field, Curate:—

‘First old Register book contains register of baptisms, marriages, and burials.

The Register of baptisms begins in 1579 and continues to 1653 inclusive.

The years 1604 to 1609 inclusive are lost, two leaves torn out.

The Register of marriages begins 1574 to 1651 inclusive.

The Register of burials begins 1574 to 1651 inclusive.

The years 1605 and 1606, 1644 to 1648 are lost, a leaf torn out.

The second book contains from 1663 to 1728 inclusive and 9 years missing in the beginning; also the years (?) 1668 to 1675.

No entry of marriages made from 1713 to 1721 and the entries for the next seven years seem made by some illiterate person.

The third books begin 1728 to 1812 inclusive. There is an hiatus in the burials between this book and the former of three years.

The fourth book is a printed book for marriages and banns up to Sep., 1822.

To the year 1599 all the entries seem made in the same hand. They are probably copies of an earlier book, in obedience to the Injunction of Elizabeth of 1597.’

Population of parish taken 27 May, 1811—

‘Inhabited houses 142; Families 163; Families employed in Agriculture 85; Do. in Trade 70; Do. in other 8; No. of Males 380, Females 356. Total number of people 736.’

Population, 1821—

Kidlington	.	.	.	938
Gosford	.	.	.	47
Thrup	.	.	.	55
Water Eaton	.	.	.	113
				<hr/>
				1153

The following remarks upon the effect produced by enclosing the Common lands are from Youngs’ Agricultural Survey of Oxfordshire, published 1813¹:—

‘In general, rents have been increased by the Enclosure in Oxfordshire, reckoned at the first letting nearly double and much more after ten or twelve years. A farm at Hampton Poyle belonging to Mr. Knapp, which

¹ Gough, Add. Oxf. 188.

before enclosing lett at £175 per annum, is now £400. The rents are paid with more regularity and ease, and beyond all doubt the produce of food for man is very greatly increased. They (the clergy) have now in some cases two-ninths given of arable land in lieu of Tithe.

There is very little difference to the Poor, but there is not so much pilfering which is much better for their morals, as they never had the means of keeping a cow, except where they had cottage commons, the enclosure allotments are much better for them and they are on the whole much better off for the Enclosure.

There is a very large Common at Kidlington which feeds 300 cows from the 16th May to Michaelmas, all by the farmers according to their yardlands and their cottages but restricted by agreement to 3-4ths of the rights, that is to turning on 3 cows instead of 4 for 4 common rights, each right being for a cow. This cow right letts for 2 guineas, liable to tithe, and have sold for £60.

Campsfield is a sheep common in the same parish with agistment shepherds. A man hires common rights and he provides the sheep and pens arable land from the 30th March till November, then they go to the cow common and the common meadows, buying hay for the depth of winter. Both sheep and shepherds are miserably poor, the breed is a mixture of long-woolled sheep, Leicester and Cotswold and Berks, many black faces. The Cow Common becomes a Horse Common from after harvest to the 5th November; then the sheep and cows go into the common meadows and stubble.

Mr. Rowland of Water Eaton on land all round at 63^s. keeps "many and great beasts," he prefers shorthorned Yorkshire cows, Mrs. Rowland (sister to Mr. Westcar of Creslow) milking a large number.

Flax was grown about here for feeding, mixing the seed with pollard. Mr. Rowland prefers oxen to horses in the plough and considers 2 oxen equal to one horse and cheaper, 4 oxen will plough as well as 4 horses, walk as fast and on the whole have the best of it. An ox worked until 6 years old will fatten better than another. All his draught oxen are Herefords and will draw anything.

Mr. Wyatt of Water Eaton breeds sheep with attention and success, his ewes are as fat as he can wish them to be and he breeds Leicester tups to let out to others. He cultivates Ruta Baga, Sweeds, for sheep and slices them up, which he finds very useful.

Water Eaton is the best grass land in the county and lies under dairy and is subject to summer floods. Mr. Rowland has lost £500 of the best hay in a single season, either lost or damaged. These meadows are said to have lett at 40^s. an acre 40 years ago; many are said to lett at £3.'

From a Terrier of the Church lands in Kidlington¹ signed by Roger Almont in 1634, we learn the names of the various divisions of the parish under the open field system.

¹ Terriers, vol. ii. p. 333, in Bodleian Libr., Turner's Coll. Oxon, C. 140.

1634. 'Terrier of the lands belonging to the Vicaridge of Cudlington alias Kidlington, as they are now lying in the Field and Parish of Kidlington, following:—

STADFOLD FIELD.

'Imprimis, one half acre at Stadfold hill abutting on John Treadwell's land on the north side and on the land of Henry Kent on the south side. Item, one half abutting on John Tredwell's land on the E. side and the land of John Webb, and on the west side shooting into a headland, Thomas Harris now William Cave on the north, and into a Plot of Leas south. Item, one half acre Lea abutting on John Tredwell's Lea on the south side, and on the Lea of William Springall on the north, and shooting into Stadfold Lane. Item, another half acre shooting into Strise hedge abutting on a Lea of John Tredwell on the east side, Richard Sanders on the west.

FERNHILL FIELD.

'Imprimis, one half acre shooting into Thrup Moore abutting on the south side on John Tredwell's land and on the north on the land of William fletcher at Birgin's hedge. Item, one half acre shooting into Knell Brook abutting on John Tredwell's land on the east side and John Hall on the west. Item, one half acre shooting into Oxford way, the other end in John Tustean's headland abutting on John Tredwell's land on the south side, Woodhall Streete on the north. Item, one half acre on the top of Fernhill abutting on John Tredwell's land on the east side and Mr. John Smith on the west, and shooting into a headland of Richard Dods, now John Tustean, at the south end. Item, one half acre at Winter Well abutting on the east side on John Tredwell's land, and William fletcher on the west and shooting into a fforeshuter of the Parsonage at the north end. Item, one other half acre at Winter Well abutting on John Tredwell's land on the south side and William Springall on the north, and shooting into Thrup Moor at the east end.

OLD HARDWICK FIELD.

'Imp. one half acre shooting into Oxford way at the east end, abutting on John Tredwell's land on the south side, and Mr. John Smith north. Item, one half acre shooting into Hardwick Slad abutting on the west side on John Tredwell's land and John Saunders east, shooting into Phelp's headland south.

CLEYFIELD.

'Imprimis, one half acre at ffenns ffirsen abutting on John Treadwell's land on the south side and Lewis Dison north, and shooting into a headland of Thomas Holloway, now Mr. John Smith, at the west end. Item, one half acre abutting on John Tredwell's land on the south side and Walter Allen north, shooting into a headland of the Parsonage the one and the other end into fforty acres.

COPTHORNE FIELD.

‘Imp. one half acre at the Vicaridge bush abutting on John Tredwell’s land on the east side and John Hall west, and shooting into a headland of John fford’s at the north end, the other end into Ffernhill. Item, one half acre at Burnt Crosse abutting on John Tredwell on the south side, Walter Allen north, shooting the one end into Oxford way the other end into the Wood way. Item, one half acre into ffenns ffirsen abutting on John Tredwell’s land on the south side, John fford on the north. Item, one half acre shooting into Springall’s headland at the south end, being in the Sandy Furlong so called, abutting on John Tredwell’s headland on the east side, John Goodson west, shooting upon a headland late Robert Milwood now Thomas Teasleare at the north end. Item, one half acre at Copthorne Bush abutting on the south side on John Tredwell’s land, Richard Heyn north, shooting into a headland of William Dods at the west end and the other end abutting into another land of Will. Dods at the east end. Item, one half acre at Lower Slad abutting on John Tredwell’s land on the south side, north shooting into a headland of William Springall at the west end and abutting at the east end upon a land of the Parsonage. Item, one half acre in the Watery Furlong abutting on John Tredwell’s land on the south side, Walter Allen north, shooting a headland of William Springall at the west end, the other end shooting into Saunder’s headland, at the east end Richard Humphreys.

WHEATINGTON FIELD.

‘Imp. in Durthfield one half acre abutting on John Tredwell’s land on the east side, William Dod west, and shooting into a foreshuter of Martyn May on the south end. Item, one half acre shooting into Shipton Slad upon a headland of Mr. Smith abutting on John Tredwell’s land on the east side. Item, one land yard in Staple Furlong abutting on a yard of John Tredwell’s on the east side, John fforty west, shooting into Raye’s headland at the north end. Item, one other half acre shooting into Ray’s headland in Staple Furlong, abutting on John Tredwell on the east side, Walter Allen on the west. Item, one half acre shooting into Mr. Brent’s headland, the other end into Salt Street way abutting on John Tredwell on the east side, the Parsonage west.

CHOARE FIELD.

‘Imp. one half acre shooting into Thrup Moore abutting on John Tredwell’s land of the south side, Tredwell lying next a meare on the south. Item, one half acre abutting on John Tredwell’s land on the south side, the one end shooting into Thrup Moore, the other end into the land of Michael Webb on the east end, William Dod on the north side.

THE HOME FIELD.

‘Imp. one half acre at Standhill shooting into Oxford way, in Thrup hurst the other end, and shooting into Robert Saunders’ headland abutting on John Tredwell’s land on the south side, William Springall on the north.

Item, one half acre in Enstone's Croft abutting on John Tredwell's land on the south side, Springall north, shooting upon a land sometimes John Dod at the west end, now Robert May. Item, one half acre in Tulcott abutting on John Tredwell's headland on the west side, Martin May on the east. Item, one half acre at Stone Pitt abutting on John Tredwell on the east side, Mr. John Smith west, shooting upon a land of Robert May. Item, one half acre at Moore Sharde¹ abutting on John Tredwell on the east side, John Hall on the west. Item, one half acre in Alescroft abutting on John Tredwell on the east and Walter Allen on the west, the one end shooting upon the Common called Crow March, the other end upon the river of Charwell. Item, one half acre in Chaneham abutting on John Tredwell on the east, Mr. John Dew on the west. Item, one leas at Thrup Stile, John Tredwell on the east, Woodhall Streete on the west. The Meadow Ground.

In Thrup mead seven yards and the Tithe acre.

In Canhame three yards and a swath.

Signed, Roger Allmont.
 Church Wardens { John Tustian.
 Edward Holloway.'

From these names we may draw sufficient evidence to show that there had been anciently a settlement along the 'Salt Street,' Hardwick, Burnt Cross, Staple Furlong, Durthill, which may have been a tumulus. This portion of the parish of Kidlington was separated from the rest by a wooded belt, which ran along the present canal, and which was known as Thrup Hurst.

When bows and arrows were in general use in the English army every village was expected to train its young men at the Butts. These were situated upon the 'Green' close to Stadfield.

THE ENCLOSURE OF THE PARISH OF KIDLINGTON.

The following are the names of those persons who took part in the enclosure of the Common lands in the 50th year of George III:—

'The Duke of Marlborough; the Bishop of Oxford; Exeter College; Thos. Nicholls, miller; Brazen Nose College; James Long of Yarnton, yeoman; John Cooper of Yarnton, yeoman; Queen's College; John Bellinger of New Woodstock, coach master; John Hanwell, baker; John Bush, late of Burcot, and now of Whateley, Esq.; Richard Bourne Charlett of Elmsley Castle, co. Worcester, Esq.; Adam Bellinger, yeoman; William Bully of Oxford, innholder; Anne Morrell of Oxford,

¹ 'Sharde' an opening in a wood. Halliwell's Dict.

widow; Henry John North of New Woodstock, Gent.; Henry Knapp of Northcourt, Berks, Gent.; William Butler, Gent.; John Sawyer of Heywood Lodge, co. Berks, Esq.; John Smith, yeoman; Mary Wild, widow; Elizabeth Leonard of Thrup, widow; Thomas Wren, wheelwright; William Scroggs, carpenter; Merton College; Rev. John Lightfoot, curate of St. Peter's in the East; Rev. Francis Rowden, curate of Holywell¹.

The owner of the old Manor House, William Bully, was allotted two pieces of ground in Kidlington Green, marked 50 and 272 on the map, in lieu of manorial rights. There is no further mention of any such rights with any other person in Kidlington.

The parish had been partially enclosed 400 years ago, as we are told of fifty-three newly-made closes in the settlement of the Vicarage. Water Eaton was enclosed long ago, but Thrup and the meadows at Gosford were included with Kidlington.

Twenty-four private roads were made at this time.

¹ From the Enclosure Award and Map in the Church Chest.

CHAPTER XIII.

CUTSLOWE OR CODESLAWE.

CUTSLOWE is an extra parochial district lying between Water Eaton and Summertown, between the Cherwell and the Oxford high road to Banbury.

In Domesday survey it is mentioned in two separate entries which probably represent the two farms into which it is still divided. The first—

‘Siward holds of the Canons of St. Frideswide two hides of land in Codeslawe. There is land for two ploughs. It was and is worth 40^s. It has always belonged to the Church.’

This entry refers to the land given by King Ethelred the Unready to St. Frideswides, and still held by their representatives the Dean and Canons of Christ Church.

In 1002, upon St. Brice’s day, 13th November, the church of St. Frideswide was burnt by the Danes, for which accident King Ethelred was sorely grieved, and two years later, in the 25th year of his Empire as he expresses it, upon the 7th December at his palace at Headington, gave the Canons a charter of restoration in which the limits of Cutslow are defined as follows:—

‘limites manerii de Cudeslawe, Thare beth ii hide londymere into Cudeslawe. Crest of portstrete into Trilliwelle, fro the welle into rithe; fro the rithe into Byschopsmore; fro the more into Wynelslad into the slade, into the slade into Wyneleshull; fro the hull on hymne¹.’

1122. This year Henry I gave or more probably confirmed the former gift of two hides of lands to St. Frideswide’s, in Codeslawe ‘et totum locum qui dicitur Beneseye².’

¹ ‘Codex Diplomaticus,’ J.M. Kemble, No. 701, vol. iii. p. 329.

² Wood-Clark, vol. ii. p. 149.

The second entry in Domesday Book:—

‘Alured the clerk holds of Roger d’Iveri, Codelawe: There are three hides. There is land for three ploughs; now in the Demesne there are two ploughs. It was worth 3 lbs. now 4 lbs.¹’

This is probably the land given to Osney as recorded in the Great Charter of Robert d’Oiley—

‘et tres hydas terrae in Cudelaw cum omnibus hominibus, decimis et aliis pertinentibus².’

The second farm at Cutslow may represent this land, which, since the suppression of Osney, has been the property of ‘King’s College,’ and other owners.

Godstow Abbey at the time of its foundation also received the tithes of all that Walter the Archdeacon possessed in Codelow.

The reason why this township is not now included in any parish is explained by Rawlinson in one of his manuscripts. He says—

‘In the large Register of St. Frid’s the charter of King Ethelred is found and the limits of the land belonging to the Priory. . . . In the 15th year of King Edward 3rd the Church of St. Edward in Oxford belonged to St. Frid’s with all its appurtenances and also that portion of land belonging to it in Cudeslowe. The truth is this farm or hamlet was then in St. Edward’s parish, but on the decay of that church most, if not all, of that parish was annexed to the parochial church of St. Frids.’

The same is also explained by Wood³—

‘The Church of St. Edward became a Vicarage in 1320 . . . and why the Vicar should be allowed soe much (a pension of 1/ a year only issueing from him to St. Frideswide’s) I cannot tell; unless it were that certain lands in Codeslowe and the chapple of Binsey which belonged to this church were found to maintaine a Vicar. For soe in an inquisition I find as follows: “Item dicunt quod ecclesia Sancti Edwardi Oxon secundum quod intelligunt non taxatur; ad quam quidem ecclesiam prior St. Frideswidae Oxon habeat capellam de Bunseye cum pertinentibus et quandam portionem terrae in Codeslaw pertinentes⁴.”’

Wood goes on to say that the church of St. Edward having fallen into ruin was pulled down and its parish translated to the churches of All Saints and St. Aldate’s, both of which belonged to St. Frideswide’s.

¹ Vol. i. p. 159, Domesday.

³ Ibid. vol. ii. pp. 57, 58.

² Wood-Clark, vol. ii. p. 191, and Chartulary of Osney, p. 38.

⁴ 15 Ed. I, 1341.

In one account of Water Eaton it is stated that d'Oiley gave the mill in that place to St. Frideswide's, and in a quarrel which ensued between the Abbot of Osney and Simon the Prior, it was agreed to pay tithes to Osney Abbey as an acknowledgment for the rights of the mill servants to attend the church in Kidlington. In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*

'the issue of the pasture called Cuddyslowe, with two little meadows to the same belonging,'

is especially mentioned in the list of the Abbey property, and it was at that time let to John Denet the bailiff for the Abbey.

After the dissolution of the monasteries, Henry VIII granted to the Commissioners for the new College, then known as the King's college, now Christ Church, 'all those portions of tithes in Sulthorn . . . and the manor of Cuddeslowe¹.' This was included in the grant to Cardinal Wolsey of the site of the suppressed priory of St. Frideswide's, and a writ was issued to the sheriff of Oxford to deliver the same. Soon after the Cardinal made over the manor to John Higden, Dean of the College. Thomas Crumwell and John Smyth were appointed his attorneys to take possession of the premises.

The land presumably belonging to the Abbot of Osney was sold in 37th Henry VIII to Richard Andrews², Gent. and Ursula his wife and their heirs, &c. 1550. After this it was purchased by the Mayor and Corporation of Oxford out of the proceeds of a sale of plate, Richard Atkinson being then Mayor, and by them let to Edward Glynton and Nicholas Todd, and five years later it was sold to John Coxhed and John Clerk³.

'Nov. 1. Agreement between Anthony Borne of Sarsden, Esq^{re}, and John Chamberlain and Elizabeth, his wife, of Godstow, both of the co. of Oxford, whereby the Chamberlains agree to sell to Borne for £1700 the Manor of Cuddeslow purchased by them of Henry and Oliver Coxhead and Henry and John Clerke, reserving a rent charge of £50 and 28/ tithes due to the Queen, subject to certain conditions, one of which is that if the said

¹ Letters Foreign and Domestic, Hen. 8th, vol. v. p. 587:—

'Grant to Henry 8th's College in the hands of Trustees of the Manor of Cuddeslowe, by the King, 24th Hen. 8th.' 1530.

Vol. iv. Pars. 3, p. 3065. Book of Expenses of Cardinal's College:—

'For hedges made at Cuddislowe, 23rd March, 16d.'

'For sheering sheep at Cuddislowe, 27 May, 2s. 9d.'

² Query whether this is Richard Andrews of Hayles, co. Gloucester, who bought the site of the Black Friars in Oxford, A. D. 1544. Wood-Clark, vol. ii. p. 325.

³ Turner's Records of the City of Oxford, pp. 202, 208, 232.

Elizabeth do not give a release of her title before Midsummer, £100 a year is to be paid in lieu thereof, besides discharge of the rent ¹.'

The next owner that we meet with is David Walter of Godstow and Wolvercote. As this history is not concerned with these villages it will not be necessary to pursue his history further than the following notices. He belonged to the family of Walter of Sarsden and was third son of Chief Justice Sir John Walter who is buried in Wolvercote church. David Walter commanded a regiment for the King during the civil war. He garrisoned his house at Godstow, and it is said, that to prevent it falling into the hands of the Parliamentary troops, the house was fired by his order. After the surrender of Oxford he was one among the many Royalists who compounded for their estates with the Commissioners, the particulars of which are as follows ²:—

'David Walter of Godstow, rendered upon Oxford Articles for arms against the Parliament, desires to compound upon his own discovery. He compounded for merely a tenth being comprised in the Articles of Oxford, for an estate he was seized of in Fee and in certain lands in the parish of Wolvercote, the manor of Godstow and Cuttslow with the appurtenances and a meade called Willy Meade and a small cottage there all in the co. of Oxford and a Farme called Drayton Farm in the parish of Eling, at the yearly value of £427 13 11, and he desires to add to the aforesaid value the sum of £258 in demesne rents and in old rents £11 3 8.'

Parcells and possessions of King's College, Oxford. Particulars for selling all rents &c. belonging to the Commonwealth of England formerly payable to the Crown, dated 16th March, 1649—

'and out of the mannor of Cuddestone als Cuddeslowe with Thap sometimes granted to Richard Andrews and Ursula his wife their heirs and assigns for ever by Letters Patent of the late King Henry 8 dated the 15th day of Sep. in the 37 year of his reign, afterwards in the tenure of John Cockhead and now or late of David Walter, Esq^{re}, rendering p. ann. xxxiiij^s iij^d ob³.'

Upon the suite of this we find notice of law proceedings touching this property:—

'Manors of Godstow, Cutslow and Wolvercote, Oxford and the scite of the late Monastery of Godstow—Touching rents, &c., received since Midsummer, 1647.'

¹ Calendar of Domestic State Papers, Pub. Record Office.
1566–1579, vol. v. p. 493.

² Royalist Composition Papers, 2nd Pub. Record Office.
series, vol. xxi. p. 278, A.D. 1646.

1651. This was tried at Oxford 26 January, 1651. Plaintiff, Edmund Prideaux, Attorney-General by information; Defendants, William Hide, Edward Story, David Walter and Sir Francis Burdett, Bart., Walter's brother-in-law¹. Colonel Walter died in 1697 and was buried beside his father in Wolvercot church².

The house upon this farm was apparently built in the reign of Charles I, for Rawlinson tells us that Sir John Lenthall, Keeper of the King's Bench prison, and father to William Lenthall, the Speaker, 'built a fair stone house here.' Sir John Lenthall had a good estate at Blechendon, at the time Rawlinson and his father-in-law, Sir Thomas Temple, apparently rented Water Eaton. A hundred years later the arms of Lenthall with their quarterings were still in the parlour window. This house was let after the Restoration of the King by Colonel Walter to a person named Banister, who was accounted a Jew, or at least an anti-sabbatarian. The neighbours taking exception to his abstaining from church complained to Sir William Morton, the nearest Magistrate. Taking the matter into consideration Sir William would have taken measures to oblige him to go to Kidlington church and so have it thought that he belonged to Kidlington, but Banister stoutly refused, saying that 'Cudeslowe was in no parish.'

The end of the matter we are not told. Later on, in the present century the question was again discussed in a suit relating to tithes due to Exeter College, and it was then ruled that

'the inhabitants always bury and christen at Wolvercote; paid no rates to Kidlington and no tithes except upon two acres to the Proprietors of Water Eaton³.'

'Cutislow. South's Charity at Islip.

'Dr. South conveyed to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster two closes in Cutislow—'The Pryor's Forge' containing 16 acres and the 'Ram Close' containing 6 acres; an enclosure of the open field in

¹ Fortieth Report of the Dep. Keeper of the Records, p. 15.

² His wife Elizabeth, heiress to Paul, Viscount Bayning, and widow of Francis Lennard. She was created Countess of Sheppy for her life, but died without issue. Wood notes:—'The body of David Walter, Esquire, one of the

Grooms of his Majesty's bedchamber, and sometime Colonel in the King's army and High Sheriff of this county, was brought through Oxon and buried at Wolvercote by his father, Sir John Walter, 30 April, 1679.' Wood MSS. F 4.

³ From Archives of Exeter College.

Wolvercote and Cutslow made in 1833 and leased to Francis Gregory for 21 years¹.

‘Islip has at Cutteslow 23 acres and 32 poles.’—South’s school².

The Mr. Gregory here mentioned was one of the family of the name settled at Woodstock.

In 1754 Henry Howell of Ensham voted in right of land at Cutslow, occupied by John Howell.

¹ Report of Charity Commissioners,
p. 587.

² Dunkin’s Ploughley and Bullington,
vol. i. p. 279.

CHAPTER XIV.

MARRIAGES IN KIDLINGTON.

- 1574 Robert Barker and Elizb. Howse. 5 July.
John Hill and Agnes Jaruish. 18 Oct.
Thomas Osborne and Alice Crosse. 23 Sep.
Christopher Heathe and Joan Saunders. 13 Dec.
- 1575 John George and Margerie Kempfer. 4 April.
John Morman and Alice Halfourde. 27 May.
John Dewe and Alice Davise. 9 June.
Arthur Dewe and Margaret Shorle. 3 July.
Will. Chillingwoorthe and Katherine Lenkener. 8 Aug.
- 1576 John George and Elizabeth Milles. 24 Jan.
Owen Wakelen and Margaret Prince. 27 Feb.
- 1577 John Wiggins and Elizb. Saunders. 4 Oct.
Wm. Thatcher and Margaret Honnye. 19 Oct.
John Nicholls and Alice Waille. 28 Oct.
John Teasler and Joane Dewe. 28 Oct.
Richard Dodd and Joan Bayley. 24 Jan.
Nicholas Abraham and Margaret Haworthe. 27 Feby.
- 1580 John Coles the elder and Ursula Gomme. 27 Feby.
Will. Lucas and Agnes Colinge. 7 May.
Richard Persons and Alice Dodd. 7 May.
- 1581 Will. Fortye and Alice Saunders. 15 April.
John Slatter and Dorethy Springall.
Sampson Morye and Phillipe Shorle. 17 Sep.
Richard Latham and Joan Aris. 15 Oct.
- 1582 John Hewse and Jane Dewe. 2 Aug.
Steven Savage and Mary Atkins. 29 Nov.
Thomas Kente ye younger and Mary Temple. 1st Oct.
John Turner and Dorethy Savage. 27 Sep.
Thomas Kente, senior and Alice Allen. 31 Jan.
- 1585 Nicholas Saunders and Mary Burgaine. 24 Oct.
Christofer Coxe and Eliz. Younge. 8 Nov.
Will. Milward and 11 Feby.
- 1586 John Nicholls and Margaret Dennet. 8 Sep.
Richard Maunsell and Jane Webb. 13 Oct.
Robert Bland and Ursely Fortye. 31 Oct.
Will. Gardener and Jane Edwards. 9 Nov.
Thomas Fortye and Ellen Gadberye. 28 Nov.
John Lake and Mary Atkins. 29 Dec.
John Mason and Ellen Wyatt. 16 Jan.

- 1586 Christofer Dodd and Elizabeth Shorle. 30 Jan.
 1587 Richard Pearsons and Elizb. Fisher. 27 April.
 Edward Ricotts and Alice Richards. 30 July.
 Thomas Morton and Agnes Kente. 2 Nov.
 Edmund Shreve and Maryan Meere. 2 Nov.
 John Smith and Katherine Twolye. 12 Nov.
 Owen Genkins and Eliz. Jones. 15 Jan.
 1588 John Huggins and Ellen Dodd. 26 May.
 Robert Yate and Agnes Snell. 16 May.
 John Lake and Bridgett Howlett. 16 May.
 Thomas Griggs and Alice Hedgeman. 27 May.
 Will. Dewe and Elinor Gorden. 5 Aug.
 John Betterton and Mary Rowlewright. 12 Sep.
 John Kinge and Joane Preste. 14 Oct.
 Robert Ottelye and Dorethy Harper. 23 Jan.
 1589 Will. Enston and Agnes Teasler. 4 April.
 John Flower and Joane Colles. 4 April.
 John Nichollsone and Annes Scott. 7 April.
 Thomas Hailles and Agnes Shorle. 4 Aug.
 Will. Winslow and Ellen Brownericke. 11 Aug.
 Percefall Parsone and Fillice Shawe. 29 Sep.
 Robert Todmorton and Agnes Dewe. 31 Jan.
 John Askott and Eliz. Bayleye. 3 Feby.
 Henry Whytinge and Ellen Dodd. 9 Feby.
 1590 Steven Fortye and Mary Rose. 16 June.
 Hewghe Wyse and Alice Cooke. 17 Aug.
 John Carter and Christian Clerke. 3 Oct.
 John Abraham and Ursely Clerke. 8 Oct.
 John George and Jane Kinge. 22 Oct.
 Thomas Gilbert and Katherine Silverside. 25 Oct.
 1591 Robert Collman and Alice Weeles. 7 June.
 George Martin and Anne Mayemode. 30 July.
 Will. (Michael ?) Hastings and Eliz. Shawe. 16 Aug.
 Will. Collins and Agnes Terrett. 11 Oct.
 John Marchall and Agnes Throckburowe. 14 Oct.
 Roger Astell and Agnes Bayleye. 25 Oct.
 Jacobe Hunte and Prudence Foord. 28 Feby.
 Henry Hill and Joan Ripinghall. 28 Oct.
 John Marchall and Bettrice Webb. 18 Feby.
 1592 Roger Burgane and Jane Moore. 6 April.
 1595 Thomas Bricknell and Joane Chamberlyne. 8 May.
 Will. Graye and Alice Gifford. 9 May.
 Richard Bishop and Christian Miller. 19 May.
 John Lane and Jane Morrice. 16 Oct.
 Robert Millward and Alice London. 1 Dec.
 Raymond Shorle and Eliz. Truelove. 14 Dec.
 1597 Will. Marshe and Luce Monke. 20 June.

- 1597 Edward Feilde and Mary Henne. 23 May.
 John Fortye and Jane Saunders. 26 June.
 John Browne and Alice Shorle. 4 July.
 John Batchelor and Dorethy Reynolds. 6 Oct.
 Robert Irons and Alice Hapcott. 17 Oct.
 Richard Keeper and Alice Willsons. 20 Oct.
 Edward Perkins and Mary Gilkes. 7 Nov.
 William Brooke and Joane Dodd. 20 Dec.
 John Teasler and Dorethye Foorde. 27 Feby.
- 1598 Richard Humfrey and Eliz. Tayler. 9 May.
 Francis Hopkins and Margaret Medcalfe. 11 May.
 Francis Rowe and Katherine Swifte. 6 July.
 Thomas Turner and Ann May. 24 July.
- ¹1599 Richard Russell and Eliz. Teasler. 18 Aug.
 John Springall and Joane Roberts. 21 Aug.
 John Cosier and Alice Weale. 25 Sep.
 John Neweman and Agnes Dodd. 6 Nov.
 Raphe Hobbes and Alice Boodington. 15 Jan.
 Samson Morye and Joan Ayris. 15 July.
 John Gilbert and Milvis Hollimon. 13 Aug.
 John George and Ellin Butler. 15 Oct.
 John Winter and Dorethee Thornbery. 19 Sep.
 Ambrose Dudley and Joane Hobbines. 16 Nov.
 Thomas Hyde and Ellin Couleman. 10 Dec.
 Wyllyam Castell and Mary Fortye. 10 Dec.
 Richard Twicken and Dorethy Fortye. 20 Jan.
 Richard Bayleyfe and Latis Nurthe. 21 Jan.
- 1600 John Foorde and Alice Whitinge. 31 March.
 Thomas Crosse and Edithe Orchard. 21 April.
 Robert Wall and Jane Attwood. 17 July.
 Raph Smith and Lettis Smith. 1 Sep.
 William Wheeler and Alice Linkborrow. 3 Oct.
 John Dewe and Annes Springell. 6 Oct.
 Jeffrey Hanky and Margery Potter. 4 Nov.
 John Wyggins and Margaret Atkins, widdow. 22 Dec.
- 1601 John Lilie and Isabell Mortimure. 1 Oct.
 Thomas Morrute and Jane Fortye. 5 Oct.
 William Harris and Katherine Smith. 19 Oct.
 Michael Potter and Jone Walker. 29 Oct.
 Henrie Thomas and Ann Henne. 29 Oct.
- 1602 John Wrench and Ann Dewe. 15 April.
 John Halloway and Katherine Doe. 21 June.
 Benedict Painter and Edith Burnham. 13 June.
 Edward Matkins (?) and Marie Kent. 17 June.
 John Barnes and Annie Irons. 10 Aug.

¹ Down to this year all the entries seem to be made in the same hand.

- 1602 Thomas Shurte and Isabell Snowe. 18 Nov.
 Richard Smarte and Marian Lardner. 10 Oct.
 Lawrence Butt and Margaret Bricknill. 17 Jan.
 Mr. Edward Clarke and Susanna Temple. 28 Feby.
 Christopher Fortie and Amye Barke.
- 1603 Richard Dennet and Eliz. Johnson. 2 May.
 Christopher Washington and Joane Halls. 5 May.
 Richard Prinnet and Dorethy Minister. 16 May.
 Richard Yeatman and Mary Cookes. 13 Oct.
 Thomas Stone and Joane Horne. 6 Oct.
 Richard Truelocke and Ann Wiggins. 24 Oct.
 Richard Heynes and Mary Sessions. 22 Jan.
 Benjamie Benthon and Martha Hankie. 20 Feb.
- 1604 John Baylis and Annis Webb. 16 April.
 Richard Gilkes and Grace Ann. 29 April.
 Bartholomew Temple and Alice Barholomew. 11 Oct.
 Thomas Coles and Joane Burgaine. 4 Nov.
 John Morris and Priscilla Heath. 29 Oct.
 William Bayly and Ann Shurle. 15 Nov.
 Daniel Stevens and Grace Burrall. 15 Nov.
 Henry Forest and Ann Burray. 18 Nov.
 William Smith and Jane Cherynten. 24 Nov.
- 1606 Christopher Bayley and Ann Whittington. 16 June.
 William Thettcher and . . . Kinge. 18 July.
 William Abat and Elizab. Alienes. 18 Aug.
- 1607 Lewes Shepherd and Dorothei Brukes.
 Nicholas Glover and Ann Wells. 2 June.
 Ralphe Stiles and Margaret Coles. 20 Sept.
 John Heathe and Jhan Miller. 21 Sep.
 Richard Frankline and Alles Alsburiecke. 26 Nov.
- 1608 Richard Stanford and Ann Saverie. 20 Jan.
 Edward Treadwell and Katherine Spilsberie. 13 Jan.
 William Hutes and Als Firson. 4 Feb.
 William Stephens and Marie Waldereth. 26 May.
 John Cooke and Marie Shew. 7 July (?).
 John Davies and Joane Wiggins. 10 Sept.
 Robert Buckland and Agnes Kersey. 3 Oct.
- 1609 Harri Teasler and Agnes Fell. 24 June.
 Mr. Will. Hollimon and Mrs. Joice Fox. 4 Sept.
 Thomas Butchur and Annie Saunders. 16 Oct.
 Will. Marsh and Jone Dokins. 4 Dec.
 Edward and Ellen
- 1610 Robert Weale and Jone Do. 30 April.
 Richard Hanwell and Elizabeth. 5 May.
 Francis Fawckner and Alice Spratle. 26 Nov.
- 1611 William Young and Eliz. Enstone. 15 April.
 John Denison and Mrs. Saunders. 21 April.

- 1611 Richard Dokynge and Margaret Phillipe. 4 May.
 Wm. Rowland and Alice Ward. 24 June.
 Christopher Savage and Margaret Catford. 7 July.
 Griffin Holton and Katherine Harris. 18 Aug.
 Richard Soper and Mrs. Folons (?). 16 Sep.
 George Dore and Alice Hayles. 7 Oct.
 Anthony Crosse and Alice Heath. 20 Nov.
 Richard Seaward and Susanna Wainwright. 21 Oct.
 Richard Harris and Jone Do. 28 Oct.
 Rafe Galloway and Margerie Symes. 3 Nov.
 Richard Wells and Margerie Quensh. 13 Jan.
 John Clifton and Alice Bue. 20 Jan.
 Nicholas Kent and Elen Draper. 26 Jan.
 Christopher Whytinge and Agnes Harum. 30 Jan.
- 1612 Robert Wele and Susan Kent. 20 Aug.
 Thomas Wele and Margaret Ricke or Riche. 20 Aug.
 Willi. Lambe and Alice Cook. 6 Oct.
 John Tesler and Elizabeth May. 4 Feb.
- 1613 Anthony Robinson and Susan Profit. 20 Sep.
 John Bricknell and Agnes House. 20 Sep.
 George Noble and Eliz. Trubthow. 1 Nov.
 John Fortescue and Agnes Greenwood. 29 Nov.
 Richard Howse and Alice Cox. 17 Jan.
 John Buckingham and Ann Carpenter. 10 Feby.
- 1614 Robert Wordsworth and Joan Holton. 7 July.
 John Surlocke and Barbara Dickens. 7 Nov.
- 1615 John Carter and Elena Saunders. 4 May.
 James Wadler and Eliz. Cook. 8 May.
 John Surlocke and Joan Thornbury. 27 June.
 Thomas Carter and Jane Barker. 16 July.
 Robert Robyns and Alice Bull. 26 July.
 George Clare and Elizabeth Burna. 19 Oct.
 Ralph Saunders and Joan House. 27 Nov.
 Robert Horseman and Agnes Butye. 11 Dec.
 Mr. Willian Ranes of Dunsetewe and Margaret Hill. 8 Jan.
- 1616 Richard Young and Katern Waren. 30 May.
 John Young and Jane Hanwell. 7 Sep.
 William Brown and Marie Bringfield. 21 Oct.
 John Sparrowhawk and Margaret Hunslo. 18 Oct.
 Nicholas Burgin and Alce Gibson. 20 Jan.
 William Hatsom (?) and Dorethy Trubthow. 23 Jan.
 Thomas Westle and Ann Fletcher. 20 Feby.
- 1617 Simon Blay and Elizabeth Hay. 25 Aug.
 Abraham Edwarde and Dorethy Churley. 20 Oct.
 Solomon Andros and Ann Do. 24 Jan.
 Thomas Kent and Susanna Gadbury. 8 Feby.
 Henry Phipps and Judith Tustain. Last day of 1617.

- 1618 Thomas Hugins and Ursly Walker. 8 Oct.
Edward Shard and Agnes Radford. 14 Jan.
- 1619 John Homes and Zara Burgin. 1 May.
Ethelbert and Agnes Dodd. 20 June.
fulke ap fook alias Bevance and Margaret Butchur. 16 Sep.
Thomas Giles and Jane Hore. 5 Nov.
- 1620 Richard Henne and Alice Glover. 3 July.
William Astwell and Phillippe Saunders. 31 July.
Will Hunt and Agnes Wild. 16 Nov.
Thomas Shepheard and Ann Batchelor. 23 Nov.
Henry Kent and Elizabeth Tesler. 27 Nov.
Richard Pydington and Marcilla Young. 15 Jan.
Joseph Cooper and Marie Cave. 14 Jan.
- 1621 Ralph Hobbs and Catherine Harris. 9 April.
Richard Clerke and Marie Johnson. 30 April.
Griffin Holton and Grace Stevens. 6 May.
Phillipe Doe and Johan Hatton. 27 July.
Thomas Breakspeare and Alce Hobbs. 7 Oct.
Thomas Hayles and Margaret Brookes. 12 Aug.
- 1622 Alline Pime and Franc Goufe. 21 April.
Will Rash and Ales Worsdworth. 6 May.
Will Harding and Ann Holloway. 5 Dec.
Thomas Slatford and Davill Dewe. June.
Ambrose Sandars and Frances flye. 2 July.
John Burname and Annes Dorne. 22 Sept.
John Kent and Joan Annesley. 23 Nov.
Harrie Tomes and Johan Cowbridge. 30 Nov.
John May and Athalia Robertson. 1 Jan.
Trustram Clemence and Cat. Dawson. 16 Feby.
- 1624 Richard Wilson and Julian Collingbourne. 8 Aug.
- 1625 Richard Standilow and Marie Fielde. 11 Sep.
Anthony Powell and Bridget Wiggby. 10 Oct.
Fran (?) Humphreys and Ann Hoosyer. 10 Oct.
Ralph Howse and Ellen Abbott. 13 Nov.
Thomas Carter and Mary . . rars (?). 4 Feby.
- 1626 Will Flower and Eliz White, travellers. 25 July.
John Godfrey and Matha Bowells. 25 Sept.
John Treadwell and Mary Webbster. 5 Oct.
Thomas Wood and Joane . . bram (?). 31 Dec.
Thomas Kingson and Alic Carter. 20 Jan.
Thomas Wordsworth and Mary Humphreys. 5 Feby.
- 1627 Daniel Sandars and Ann Whytinge. 7 June.
John Dod and Mary Fortie. 7 Sept.
John Dorwood and Amye Dorne. 7 Oct.
Christopher Bayley and Parnell Irons. 15 Oct.
- 1628 John Durrume and Margaret Morley. 24 June.
John Nevell and Alice Kingson. 21 July.

- 1628 Edward Browne and Alice Gardner. 2 Oct.
 John Hitchcock and Amy Sanders. 9 Oct.
 John Forde and Alice Sanders. 20 Oct.
 Richard Prideaux minister of this Parish of Kidlington and Ann
 Streete the dau. of Edward Streete, gentleman, were married.
 William Dod and Johane Sandars,
 Thomas Sandars and Johane Dod.
 Ralphe Smith and Margaret Rey.
 These four couple all married, 27 Nov., 1628.
- 1629 Richard Bath and Elizabeth Cosier. Feby. 18.
 John Tredwell and Eliz. Bellcher. 13 July.
 George Bellers and Millicent Tarry. Sep.
 Humphrey Hammon and Eliz. Holder. 18 Oct.
 Arthur Haukins and Marian Patricks. 18 Oct.
 Richard Lamb and Joane Wild. 15 Nov.
 John Hoffman and Ann Doe. 28 Nov.
- 1630 Henrie Wrench and Joane Alline. 21 May.
 Will. Ironmonger and Margaret Whetstone. 18 July.
 David Stratton and Franc Holder. 17 March.
 Robert Collier and Johane Whiteman (?). 10 Dec.
 John Webb and Margaret Wild. 8 Aug.
- 1631 Henrie Dicks and Judith Elmes. 12 Oct.
 Thomas Rance and Eliz. Bayley. 6 Nov.
 Ethelbert Dod and Dorethie Springall. 23 Jan.
- 1632 William Bayley and Margaret Dennett. 21 April.
 John Maynerd and Ann Tredwell. 4 Oct.
 Thomas Haukins and Ann Belcher. 7 Feby.
- 1633 Wili. Bramsgrave and Margaret Heborne. 29 April.
 Thomas Alline and Elliner Parkins. 1 Aug.
 Thomas Plovir and Alice Whickinges. 15 Jan.
 Richard Drinkwater and Edith Thornberrie. 30 Jan.
- 1634 Richard Mould and Ann Adams. 24 June.
 Robert Briningime and Kat. Nevell. Nov.
- 1635 Will Parson and Ann Cottrell. 25 April.
 William Bayley and Grace Hutt. 4 July.
 Thomas Berry and Ellen Springall. 21 Jan.
 John Allen and Eliz. Parkins. 14 Feby.
 Robert James and Allice Allen. 14 Feby.
 Thomas Kreake or Kreale and Eliz. Bayley. 14 Feby.
- 1636 Richard Franklin and Kat. Bennett. 8 May.
 Thomas Horne and Johanne Busbye. 4 July.
 Thomas Stiles and Marie Tomes. 28 July.
 Matthew Browne and Eliz. Bridgwater. 6 Oct.
 Robert Horne and Johanne Dewe. 13 Oct.
 Nicholas Morrish and Eliz. Follinge. 17 Nov.
 Stephen Putlock and Ellen Young. 16 Dec.

- 1637 Robert Cave and Margerie Maynard. 27 April.
 John Kibb and Thamar Didcock. 24 June.
 Thomas Giles and Alice Maynard. 24 July.
 John Fortie and Ann Forde. 28 Aug.
 John Conye and Elizabeth Coxe. 1 Oct.
 Edward Cob and Johane Webb. 19 Oct.
 Thomas Dorne and Ellen Brusse. 23 Oct.
 John Hanke and Alice Carter. 6 Nov.
 Henrie Wright and Sibbill Enstone. 25 Jan.
 1638 William Cole and Lucie Heigh. 1 June.
 Richard Weston and Marianne Martine. 23 July.
 Thomas Winter and Elizabeth Lamby. 15 July.
 William Cobard and Johanne Reeve. 15 July.
 1639 Richard Bayley and Johane Reeve. 9 May.
 John Forde, the elder and Kat. Forest. 13 June.
 Edward Bramsgrave and Alice Fortie. 17 June.
 Richard Morlowe and Johanne Forde. 13 Oct.
 George Alline and Alice Surtt. 18 Nov.
 1640 Edward Hutton and Eliz. Tooley. 16 April.
 Thomas West and Ellinor Enstone. 3 May.
 Stephen Nevell and Alice Kingson. 29 June.
 Willi. Millene and Eliz. Streete. 13 Aug.
 James Scotte and Katherine Sandars. 24 Aug.
 Symon Larnarder and Ann Buckland. 14 Sep.
 Francis Borne and Elinor (illegible). 17 Sep.
 Robert Berrie and Ann Cooke. 3 Oct.
 John Shurrie and Susanna Dod. 28 Nov.
 John Forde and Ann Pearte. 10 Jan.
 1641 Henry Gilkes and Alice. 21 Sep.
 Nathaniel Falkner and Rose Web. 7 Oct.
 1642 Thomas Creake and Eliz. Hill. 7 April.
 Charles Morgan and Eliz. Treadwell. 28 July.
 Henry Tame and Prudence Coles. 3 Aug.
 Richard Teasler and Margaret Fifield. 10 Oct.
 Wm. Cull and Ann Fortie. 3 Nov.
 John Saunders and Eliz. Forty. 19 Jan.
 John Tailer and Joane Thomas. 21 Jan.
 1648 Thomas Collis and Mary Cox. 1 Aug.
 John Carter and Johan Burnham. 16 Nov.
 John Paine and Grace Galloway. 23 Nov.
 1649 Willam Godfrey and Mary Shillingworth. 1 Aug.
 1650 Richard Young and Anne Webb. 25 Feby.
 1651 William Bayley and Jane Hanwell. 16 Feby.
 Matthew Browne and Anne Augur. 4 March.
 Richard Newman and Alice Prideaux. 21 April.

These are the whole of the marriages that are legible in the 1st Book of the Register.

- 1653 Marriages and Banns in 2nd Book of Register.
Will. Howse and Jane Olive were married 9th Febr.
The Banns of matrimony between Mr. Christopher Scanderet and Joane Bricknell, and between Richard Howse and Hester Cooke asked 23rd April, 1654.
- 1654 Robert Francis and Ann Dorratt married 22 May.
The Banns of mat. between Richd. Huggins and Jane Shawe asked 2nd June.
John Godbesheere, the younger and Ann Sylverside married 24 June.
A contract of marriage between George Kitteresh and Martha Keene, and another between Edward Coles and Kat. Sweatman published three Lord's Days and certificates given them 1st Oct.
A contract of marriage between John Williams and Ursula Butler being once published in the church was forbidden by John Williams' father 11 Oct. [This was republished on 24th Dec. 1655.]
Richard Silverside and Ann Hall married 4 Oct.
John Tanner and Anne Smarte. 9 Nov.
Thomas Bishop and Margaret Best. 23 Oct.
A contract between Will. Enstone and Dorrothy Holloway, and another between Nicholas Pert and Ann Web, and another between John Syms and Ann Foord published three Lord's Days. 19 Nov.
John Watson and Eliz. Flexny married 29 Dec.
- 1655 Will. Holland and Eliz. Cooke married 23 April.
- 1656 A contract of marriage between John Davies and Ann Cutt three Sabbath days published in the church of Kidlington. 28 July.
- 1658 Henry Green and old widdow Gold married on 2nd Aug.
- 1661 Richard Bartlett and Alice Symonds. 21 Oct.
Daniel Sandars and Ann Washington. 26 Sep.
Old Will. Savage (age 78 years) and Margaret Humphries. 3 March.
- 1662 William Sawyer and Mary Norris. 20 Jan.
Thomas Stratton and Eliz. Noble. 27 Nov.
Robert Wordsworth and Eliz. Buckingham. 19 Jan.
Richard Morrish and Ellionor Hitchcock. 5 Feb.
- 1663 John Galloway and Prudence Burname. 22 Oct.
- 1664 Richard Thatcher and Elionor Tresler. 23 Feb.
- 1665 Thomas Tournier, Esqr., of Grays' Inn, and councillor-at-law, and Elizabeth Morton, the third daughter of Sir Will. Morton, Knt. and Sergt.-at-law. 18 May.
Thomas Pitman and Sara Weeb. 1 Nov.
Thomas Mileman and Ann Cave. 27 Dec.
- 1667 John Hitchcock and Mary Monke. 15 April.
Henry Right and Anne Harris. 15 April.
- 1669 John Gofe and Eliz. Teasler. 23 Sep.
John Tomkyns and Eliz. Cledone. 4 Oct.
- 1670 Robert Samson and Cat. Greene. 20 Oct.
- 1671 Steven Tounsins and Ann Colls (?). Aug. 20.

- 1671 Edward Holloway and Mary Webb. 10 Sep.
 1672 Robert Samson and Elizabeth Aires. 20 Nov.
 John Forty and Ruth Fullar. 22 Jan.
 1673 Samuel Howse and Ann Wordsworth. 17 June.
 William Duber and Dorethy Thomas. 8 Dec.
 Richard Nevell and Ann Sandars, widdow. 6 Jan.
 1674 Andrew Goome and Jane Pyme. 6 April.
 1676 Richard Thomas and Martha Haynes. 4 June.
 1680 Will. Butler and Ann Sperin. 7 Oct.
 Andrew Allom and Eliz. Huggins. 13 Nov.
 John Potticary and Eliz. Sandars. 15 Nov.
 1681 John Irons and Dorethy Erslon. 1 Aug.
 Thomas Flood and Jane Chadwell. 18 Oct.
 1682 A. Evans and Joan Savage. Jan. 5.
 Richard Cave and Ann Peart. 9 Oct.
 1683 William Payne and Joan Hank. 7 April.
 1684 Thomas Davis and Ann Hullis. 11 Jan. (? June).
 William Young and Jane Cramp. 30 Aug.
 1685 Francis Tayler and Joan Horne. 2 Nov.
 1687 Philip Renn and Susanna Garvis. 3 April.
 Henary Watson and Ann Burchill. 10 April.
 Henary Drinkwater and Ann Hoar. 25 April.
 John Present and Elizabeth Brown. 28 April.
 1688 William Alling and Margery Weeb. 22 June.
 1689 Robert Johnson and Joyce King. 16 Sep.
 1690 Washington Sodon and Clary Dod. 30 Oct.
 1695 Griffin Davis and Jane Wood. 21 May.
 Ralph Sandars and Ann Simons. 7 Oct.
 1696 John Hupper and Eliner Gardner. 13 Dec.
 1697 Mr. Conant and Mrs. Pooock. 30 Dec.
 1698 Mr. Hayward and Mrs. Mary Smith. 7 Aug.
 1699 Thomas Hill and Mary Morris. 1 June.
 Edward Dennet and Eliz Forest. 9 Oct.
 Thomas Hollans and Jane Wild. 6 Nov.
 1700 James Sandars and Mary Woodworth. 2 June.
 Mr. Loo and Miss Margaret Smith. 6 Feb.
 1701 Nicholas Peart and Mary Toms. 5 Oct.
 Thomas Hows and Mary Hollans. 20 Oct.
 John Web and Elizabeth Williams. 28 Oct.
 1702 Steven Hanks and Eliz. Howse. 11 May.
 John Bradley of Forest Hill and Jane Howse. 13 Sep.
 Benjamin Rolles of parish of Witney and Elizabeth Kersey of parish
 of Kidlington. 22 Oct.
 Robert Derret of p. of Kid. and Mary Wheeler of parish of
 Stanton Harcourt. 31 Dec.
 Richard Washington of Kidlington and Sarah Wheeler of Stanton
 Harcourt. 2 Jan.

- 1702 Benjamin Doggett and Eliz. Allen. 7 Feb.
 1703 Robert Hore of Ainslow Mill and Grace Jones. 22 Ap.
 Edward Coley and Elizabeth Creak both of Kid. 20 May.
 Obadiah Douglass and Ann Gilder. 10 June.
 Thomas Douglass and Ann Peart. 10 Oct.
 1704 Thomas Finmore and Deborah Coaley, widow, both of the city of
 Oxford. 23 April.
 1705 Henry Gammage and Mary Foster, widow. 24 June.
 James Bassett and Joane Watson. 12 Nov.
 William Cary and Sarah Morris both of Kid. 4 Oct.
 Samuel Springer and Ann Forde both of Kid. 31 Dec.
 1706 Thomas White of Deddington and Mary Nevell of Kidlington.
 6 Oct.
 1710 Doctor John Lane of Banbury and Mrs. Elizabeth Williams.
 14 Sept.
 Robert Springall and Isabella Gardner both of Kid. 20 Nov.
 George Robbins of Banbury and Eliz. Edwards of Kid. 30 Nov.
 Charles Burras of Banbury and Ann Edwards of Kid. 30 Nov.
 1711 Richard Stevenson of this parish and Mary Almont of Burket in
 p. of Dorchester. 6 Dec.
 1713 Giles Wainwright and Mary Sommers of Kid. 6 April.
 Nicholas Morris and Anne Wilde. 19 April.
 Mr. James Newlin of Oxford and Mrs. Rebecca Almont of Oxford
 (on the tombstone *Newland*). 20 Aug.
 1721 Henry Drinkwater and Marget Withers. 25 June.
 John Taplin and Mary Green. 8 Oct.
 1723 Richard Morris and Mary Dolton. 9 May.
 1724 John Luckitt and Margit Dod. 27 April.
 John Bullock and Eliz Sanders. 25 May.
 John Allen and Ann Faulkner. 10 Dec.
 1725 James Ayers and Eliz. Aris. 3 Jan.
 1726 Richard James and Alice Smith. 5 June.
 1727 Steven Putlock and Mary Stevens. 18 Oct.
 Robert Hunt and Elizabeth Smith. 27 Oct.
 John Gordon and 17 Nov.
 Thomas Buckland and Mary Fowles. 13 March.
 1728 John Ford and Elizabeth Goodson. 24 July.
 Thomas Smith and Anne Morris. 17 Aug.

The above are the whole of the marriages legible in the second Book of the Register.

- 1728 The two last entries repeated.
 1729 Samuel Burks and Ann Washington. 29 Sep.
 1730 Richard Davis, widower, and Mary Locee. License, 10 Sep.
 Richard Callis of Horton in p. of Beckley and Mary Morris of
 Kidlington. License, 20 Jan.
 Will. Parsons of Sandford near Tew, widower, and Mary Tyrrel
 of Kidlington. License, 18 Feby.

- 1731 Stephen Putlock and Mary Crafoot, Banns. 20 April.
 Martin Giles and Anne Carry, Banns. 20 April.
 Robert Wadson and Sarah Crafoot, Banns. 18 July.
 Timothy Green and Joan Davis, widow, License. 11 Oct.
 John Biddle and Sarah Baseley, widow, Banns. 6 Jan.
 Sam. Evans of p. of Eynsham and Ann Harman of p. of Kidlington,
 Banns. 2 Feby.
- 1732 Thomas Harbut and Elizabeth Davis, Banns. 2 July.
 Henry Chinner of Oddington and Sarah Potipher of Kid., License.
 5 Sept.
 John Hulet and Eliz. Smith, Banns. 7 Oct.
 John Camden of North Leigh and Mary Goodson of Kid., License.
 30 Sept.
 George Badger widdower, and Eliz. Gibbins, Banns. 6 Jan.
 Will. Clerke and Mary Browne. 5 March.
- 1733 John Goodson of Thrupp and Ann Springal of Kid., License.
 16 April.
 Edward Bucknell of the p. of Cunmore and Elizabeth Rupel of
 Kidlington, Banns. 2 Oct.
 Matthew Adams and Jane Morrice, Banns. 4 Oct.
 Edward Trulen and Eliz. Soden. 5 July.
 John Corbutt and Mary Durrom. 8 July.
 William Howse and Eliz. Irons. 25 Oct.
- 1734 Thomas Soden and Eliz. Dawson, License. 29 May.
- 1735 Will. Turrill and Mary Brock, License. 24 May.
 Abel Cogkins of Tackley and Mary Dawson of Kidlington, License.
 13 Aug.
- 1736 William Such and Eliz. Day, Banns. 11 Sept.
- 1737 George Willesdon and Ann Stephens, Banns. 4 July.
 Robert Collier and Elizabeth Larnor, Banns. 29 Aug.
 Henry Morling and Sarah Holmes, Banns. 25 Sept.
 Michael Barrat and Mary Courell, License. 30 Oct.
 John Davis and Jane Hardin, Banns. 29 Nov.
 John Treadwell of Cassington and Sarah Wren, Banns. 1 Dec.
- 1738 At St. Clements, Oxford, Robert Rand and Ann Webb, Banns.
 16 April.
 Henry North and Mary Springall, License. 30 April.
 John Cook and Ann Swift, License (by the Parish). 16 May.
 William Such and Mary Wilkes, Banns. 4 Sept.
 Will. Godson and Eliz. Pearman, License. 30 Sept.
 Richard Smith of Begbroke and Eliz. Osborne, License. 25 Nov.
 Robert Dodd and Phillippe Coleman, Banns. 28 Dec.
- 1739 Thomas Willims and Hannah Bates, Banns. 1 Oct.
 John Blizzard and Ann Burgan, Banns. 14 Oct.
 John Tant and Susanna Bowerman, License. 27 Sep.
 Nicholas Morris and Ann Budd, Banns. 22 Oct.
 Francis Saunders of Cassington and Eliz. Walker, License. 8 Dec.

- 1740 Thomas Atkins of Stoke Lyne and Eliz. Day of this Parish, Banns.
11 May.
Thomas Howse and Mary Saunders, Banns. 13 April.
Samuel Ricketts and Elizabeth Ellis, License. 21 Sep.
Gilder Duglas and Elizabeth Aires. 29 Sep.
James Butler of Churchill and Ann Sandal, Banns. 19 Oct.
William Matthews and Katherine Borstock, Banns. 29 Dec.
- 1741 St. Clements, Oxford, Thomas Cecil and Ann James, Banns. 6 May.
Richard Jackson and Ann Taplin, Banns. 8 June.
- 1742 Christopher Washington and Mary Matthews, Banns. 20 June.
John Thompson and Jane Toovey, Banns. 23 Oct.
George Scaresbrook and Hannah Winslowe, License. 16 Nov.
Charles T (?) of Hampton Poyle and Jane Payne, Banns. 30 Dec.
Blacknal Carter and Sarah Coles, Banns. 14 Feby.
- 1743 Anthony Day and Eliza Herbert, License. 10 May.
Henry Morvin and Katherine Irons, Banns. 30 Oct.
Richard Mories and Mary Symonds, License. 4 Feby.
- 1744 Henry Fennimore and Ann Field, Banns. 28 March.
Richard Bates and Mary Holt of Waterperry, License. 14 May.
James Roberts and Mary Wren, License. 17 May.
George Thornton and Elizabeth Yonge, Banns. 8 Oct.
James Provost and Eliz. Williams, Banns. 22 Oct.
John Wells and Martha Morrice, License. 14 Dec.
Job Treadwell and Mary Graves, Banns. 20 Jan.
Christopher Holland and Sarah Freeman, License. 25 Feby.
- 1745 Richard Willesdon and Ann Freeman, Banns. 31 March.
Thomas James, of Woodstock, widdower and Elizabeth Payne,
License. 1 July.
Samuel Brockett, of Weston and Eliz. Tant, Banns. 28 July.
Richard Brown, of Begbroke and Mary Brafoot, Banns. 14 Oct.
John Gomm and Mary Jones, Banns. 3 March.
William Tant and Eliz. Timmes, Banns. 3 March.
- 1746 John Wren and Anne Slater, Banns. 3 April.
John Wren and Alice Dawson, Banns. 11 June.
John Juffs and Eliz. Smith, Banns. 1 Oct.
Willi. Keen and Martha Fletcher, Banns. 4 Oct.
Thomas James and Ann Tims, Banns. 3 March.
- 1747 Edward Nichols and Ann Coles, License, Exeter College. 23 April.
Jonathan Farnel, of Besselsleigh, and Ann Bailis, License, Exeter
College. 24 April.
John Lawrence and Eliz. Hays, Banns. 11 June.
John Sandars and Alice Mortimer, License, Exeter College. 7 Aug.
- 1748 John Floyd and Ann Cecil, Banns. 5 Oct.
William Clerk and Hannah Rutter, Banns, Exeter College. 16 Nov.
John Stoptoo and Clara Stocker, Banns, Exeter College. 15 Aug.
Thomas Payne and Mary Roberts, Banns, Exeter College. 1 Dec.
- 1749 Robert Burgen and Mary Hanwell, License, Exeter College. 9 July.

- 1749 James Hunt and Ann Wright, Banns, Exeter College. 4 Oct.
 William Allam and Eliz. Kirry, License, Exeter College. 3 Feby.
 Richard Waile and Eliz. Laurence, Banns. 12 March.
- 1750 Joseph Meed and Harriot Mann, License. 17 Oct.
 John Knowles and Sarah Barrat, License. 18 Nov.
 William Hill and Mary Wiggington, widow, License, Exeter
 College. 5 Jan.
 John Cozier and Mary Wild, License, Exeter College. 16 Feby.
- 1751 William Wiggings and Eliz. Piesley, License. 30 May.
 Thomas Hanwell and Mary Hill, Banns, Exeter College. 14 Oct.
 William Scragg and Alice Coles, Banns. 21 Oct.
- 1752 Joseph Green and Mary Baldwin, Banns. 20 Jan.
- 1753 George Knapp and Kat. Tyrrell, License. 29 April.
 Richard Taplin and Jane Slater, License, Exeter College. 27 May.
 John Thompson and Ann Scot, Banns. 13 June.
- 1754 Thomas Hill and Mary Corbett, Banns, Exeter College. 12 Jan.
 Michael Cripps and Ann Hanwell, Banns. 21 Jan.
 Philip Hanwell and Mary Woodford, License, Exeter College.
 5 Feby.

These are the whole of the marriages in the large book of the Register, completing the old register books. What follows is the ordinary printed form.

THE HISTORY OF YARNTON.

THE HISTORY OF YARNTON.

CHAPTER I.

I.—EARLY SECULAR HISTORY OF YARNTON.

OUR earliest account of Yarnton begins sixty years before the Norman Conquest, when Aylmer, Earl of Cornwall, endowed his new foundation, the Benedictine Abbey of Ensham, with lands in Er-dington.

Next in order comes the Domesday account of the parish, as follows :—

‘Lands of the Bishop of Lincoln. In the Hundred of Dorchester.

‘Roger de Juri holds of the Bishop *Hardintone*. This belongs to the church of Eglesham. There are ix hides and a half. Arable land ix ploughs. Now in Demesne ii ploughs, and xx Villeins with iii cottagers having vii ploughs.

‘There are cc acres of meadow less xx and . . . xx acres pasturage.

‘Maino had here one hide, he may go where he pleases.

‘In King Edward’s time this place was worth x pounds. Now, with fishing and meadows, it is worth xiiii pounds¹.’

Lands of the Bishop of Bayeux :—

‘Roger holds half a hide in Hardintone. Arable land 1 carucate here with ii Villeins and 1 borderer. It was worth x shillings, at present worth xx shillings.’

When the great survey was made Oxfordshire came about fourteenth in order among the counties. A reference contained in the body of the

¹ Domesday Book, vol. 1, pp. 155^b and 156.

book proves the time to have been after the death of Queen Matilda, which happened on the 2nd Nov. 1083. The mode of proceeding was thus: First, to entitle the estate to its owner; secondly, to specify the hundred in which it was contained; thirdly, to name the tenant and specify the place with its former and present value¹.

THE NAME.

Originally Eardungton, a dwelling town. The discovery on this spot of so many graves and traces of very ancient inhabitants curiously illustrates this meaning. In Domesday the name is written Hardintone. Towards the seventeenth century we find the initial letter changed, and the name becomes Yardington, Yarrington, and finally Yarnton. The initial E is still used to mark the cattle when put out to common. The curious parallel case of Erdington near Birmingham exists where the pronunciation has softened down to Yarnton.

Hearne walking through the beautiful meadows at Yarnton and admiring the fine cattle, quaintly derives the name from the large herds feeding there².

Towards the clear understanding of this history it will be advantageous to make a slight sketch of the Lay Fees of which Yarnton was considered to be a member.

At the time of the Domesday Survey Yarnton was included in the Hundred of Dorchester; the greater part belonged to the Bishop of Lincoln; a lesser portion was said to belong to the Bishop of Bayeux. This Bishop, being Lord of Bladon, we may fairly suppose that this half hide in Yarnton lay next to that village.

Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, was brother to the Conqueror, who reposed great trust in him and created him Earl of Kent. Besides many large estates in various parts of England he possessed thirty-two manors in Oxfordshire. During the absence of William in Normandy his brother was left viceroy in England, but allowing himself to be seduced by the flattery of a fanatic who told him he was likely to be made Pope, the bishop abandoned his trust and prepared to go to Rome³. For this all his lands were confiscated, and eventually he died at Palermo upon a journey to the Holy Land.

¹ White Kennet, Parochial Ant.

³ Dugdale's Baronage.

² Bliss, Life of Hearne.

Roger d'Ivry, Lord of Beckley, was the sworn brother in arms of Robert d'Oiley and shared his 'Honours' with him, in which Yarnton was included. After two generations the Honour of Ivry, with a change of owners, changed its name and became the Honour of St. Wallery. In the reign of King John, Thomas de St. Wallery suffered the confiscation of his lands to the King, owing to his taking the part of the French and of the Pope in the matter of the Interdict¹. The King placed the barony in charge of a trusty seneschal, Ralph de Hareng, and after him Richard, Earl of Cornwall, brother to the King, held the same office.

'Ralph de Hareng.' Two knights' fees in Erdington are in the hands of the Lord the King, and Ralph de Hareng holds them in custody for the King².'

Another member of d'Oiley's Fee was Wallingford. This fell by marriage to Brian Fitz-Count, who held his castle for the Empress Maud. For this cause his lands also fell into the hands of King Stephen. This Honour of Wallingford was given by Richard I to his brother John shortly before his coronation, and later we find the son of John, Richard, Earl of Cornwall, acting as steward for it.

1229. Finally, about the fifteenth year of Henry III, this King endowed his brother Richard³ with these two Baronies of St. Wallery and Wallingford, and henceforth they both seem to have been governed as one and managed by the same stewards, and the names used indifferently. This will also explain why the affairs of Thrup juxta Cudlington are so frequently found mixed up with those of Yarnton, being brought up for settlement before the Court of Frank Pledge in Yarnton.

Thrup was divided between these two baronies, and, from the evidence we possess, we should say arbitrarily.

In the Hundred Rolls, at page 855, among the possessions of the Earl of Cornwall we find Thrup Mill included in the Barony of St. Wallery. In another page of the same and also in the *Inquisitiones Post Mortem*, Richard II, we are told that Thrup Manor and Mill are in the Barony of Wallingford, and the same in many cross references. May we then assume that the two titles were used indifferently?

¹ 10th and 11th John, 14th and 15th John, White Kennet.

² Testa de Nevill, page 120^b.

³ August 10th, White Kennet.

The mill on the Cherwell, mentioned at page 204 of this history, can only be that of Thrup.

1272. About the first year of Edward I's reign Erdington is said to have been withdrawn from the Hundred of Wotton, about twenty-five years previously, by Richard, Earl of Cornwall, at the time when the King had granted him the Honour of St. Wallery.

When thus separated from Wotton it was called the 'Hundred of Erdington,' and many references in the 'Hundred Rolls' occur of persons being subject to this Hundred:—

'The Jury of this Hundred declare that the Township of Erdington owed suit and service to the King's Hundred of Wotton; that about twenty-five years ago it had been already withdrawn by Richard, Earl of Cornwall, after the King, his father, had enfeoffed him with the Honour of St. Wallery, and Edmund his son now holds it by an annual loss to the King of two shillings, by what warrant they know not¹.'

'Earl Richard holds what was the Earl of Dreux', Erdington xvj libr'².'

Robert, Earl of Dreux, was husband of the daughter of Thomas of St. Wallery. He had livery of all his (Thomas') lands in England for her inheritance, but by forfeiture of Robert de Dreux they were afterwards given to Richard, Earl of Cornwall, brother to King Henry III³.

The Abbot of Osney, on account of the lands he held at Hampton and at Barton Ede, came twice a year to the Court of Frankpledge at Yarnton. John Brun and Richard de Fretewelle appear to have farmed a portion of this Honour and sublet it to other tenants. Under the parish of Cassington we find:—

'John Brun and Richard de Fretewell hold land here from the Earl of Cornwall and for the same should come to Erdington to the Court of Frankpledge⁴.'

Also at Thrup we find the same parties letting land.

'Hampton Gay. Abbot of Oseney . . . for which he owes suit at the Court of Osney and the tenants of the said Abbot come once a year to the view of Frankpledge at Erdington⁵.'

¹ Rotuli Hundrorum, Hund. of Wotton, vol. 2, p. 34.

² Testa de Nevill, p. 120, note c.

³ Baronage, Dugdale, ed. 1675, vol. 1, p. 455.

⁴ The Court of 'Frankpledge,' answered to what is now called the 'County Court.'

⁵ Rot. Hund. vol. 2, p. 836.

Also—

‘Barton Ede—Honour of Wallingford¹.

‘The Abbot of Oseney held in above $\frac{1}{2}$ vir. land and 1 cottage and should come to the court of Herdington².’

‘Edmund Earl of Cornwall (son of Richard).

‘Fee of the Honour of Wallingford which during his lifetime he made over to Margaret, his wife, in dower. Erdington maner “extent”³.’

Account of the Manor and list of the people there from the Hundred Rolls⁴:—

‘Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, holds the manor of Erdington from the King in “capite” of the Honour of St. Wallery, by what service or by what fee we know not. And the same Earl holds in demesne three carucates of land with meadow and pasture adjoining. And he has a view of Frankpledge with the pleas and profits of the same and the right of warren of the whole manor, by what warrant they know not. And the manor should be represented twice a year at the Hundred of Wotton, but it has been withdrawn by Richard, Earl of Cornwall, on what warrant they know not.’

Villains.

William le Fraunceys holds from the same Earl one virgate of land for iijj^s, and should work and redeem his children, &c.

The following all hold the same quantity under the same conditions—
 Agnes le Juvene, Will fils John, Hugh Brid, Cicil Brid, Robert North, Ths Theodon, Nicholas le Carpenter, John P’pois, Adam do., Adam Faber, Walter Elyne, Richard de Cote, Nicholas de Horspaze, Richard le Gardiner, Rad at Med, Will Dun, Will in the Lane, Thomas Gibbard, Missont Juvene, Will Pod, Simon le Wyte, Nicholas Walker, John Basse, Rad Prepositus, Godfrid Davit, Will ate Grene, Tho Ate Wille, Richard Levesone, Matilda la Blunde, Alicia Bovetone.

Richard Hamundeville holds a third part of the aforesaid township which belonged to the aforesaid Honour from John Brun and Richard de Fretewelle and the same Richard and John hold from the Earl of Cornwall, doing suit and service at the court of North Osney every three weeks and the scutage of one Knights’ fee. And the same Richard de Mundeville holds in demesne three yard-lands.

The family of Amundeville were apparently hereditary stewards to the Bishop of Lincoln. Joslin de Amundeville claimed this right

¹ Rot. Hund. vol. 2, p. 836.

1299, vol. 1, p. 163.

² Id. p. 865.

⁴ Page 855. This list was made about

³ Cal. Inq. Post Mort., 28 Ed. I. the 3rd year of Edward I.

before the Court of Westminster and was fined twenty marks for the same¹.

Villains.

John Bonserjant holds under the same Richard de Mundevile one yard-land in villenage at will, and one plot of land for 9s. per annum, working, paying tallage, and redeeming his children at his lord's will.

The following all hold the same quantity on the same conditions—William Henri, John fils Godefride, Matilda relict Rici, Margeria in Angulo, Osbert Bugge.

Cottagers.

John Piscator holds from the same 1 cottage as above for xvjd.

Freemen.

Richard Athelard holds free one virgate from the same p vjs et vjd. Doing the homage and scutage for it.

John of the Mill holds one third part of a virgate and one Mill and one fishery on the banks of the Cherwelle which extends alongside the field of Throp, for iiij^s—and does the same service.

Richard de Lyons holds free one acre for xvjd p ann.

John, son of Philip of Cotes, holds one third part of a virgate for viij^d p ann. and does service as above.

The Abbess² of Godstowe holds from the same Earl of the same Honour, in pure and perpetual alms. The following hold under her, each one virgate, at the will of the abbess:—

John, son of Adam, William ate the Watter, Juliana relict of Simon, Juliana relict of Adam.

Villains.

The following men each hold half a virgate of land from the Earl of Cornwall for ij^s and vjd pr ann—in villenage working at the will of their Lord.

Richard de Roluesham, Simon le Webbe, Juliana Chapman, Hugh Ate Ford, Mathew Cocus, Tho' Prepositus, Ad Wale.

Simon Greg holds from the same Earl the croft called 'Fretes Croft' for one mark, on the above terms.

Cottagers.

The following hold one cottage each for 10^d p an. upon the usual conditions:—

Agnes relict Clerici, Agnes relict of Walter, Thos Prepositus, Stephen ad Portam, Agnes ad Portam, Christian Olbes.

¹ Madox, History of the Exchequer, pp. 303 and 316.

² The Abbess of Godstow held a

small annuity at Yarnton, also the meadow called 'Pixie Mead'; see account of Yarnton Meadows.

Freemen.

The following freemen pay their court at Northosney and the usual scutage and military service to the Earl of Cornwall for their holdings:—

Thomas le Fraunkeleyne ij virgates of land free for xij^d p an.

Ralph Oppehulle holds ij virgates for ij^s p an. as above.

Ralph in the Hurne holds one free cottage and 2 acres for ij^s vj^d, as above.

After the above list was drawn up Yarnton ceased to belong to any secular power. About the year 1294 the Earl of Cornwall made over the manor to his convent of Rewley and henceforth Yarnton owed neither suit nor service to any court or hundred.

Under the protection of the Cistercian order the parish was free from all the vexations, inquisitions, subsidies, and collections so common at that time, and what was a no less boon to the people at large, free from the penalties and inhibitions consequent upon a not infrequent state of interdict imposed by the spiritual powers. This happy immunity lasted until the destruction of the monasteries broke down so many ancient institutions of the land.

II.—YARNTON THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH.

From the earliest records of which we have any notice until the year 1536 Yarnton is found to have been the appanage of the Church, and beyond the short period in which the manor was held by the Earl of Cornwall, it never owed allegiance to any secular lord.

1005. The Benedictine Abbey of Ensham being established, Aylmer or Athelmer Earl of Cornwall, the founder, endowed it with—

‘10 mansions that lay in Erdington which he had obtained by exchange with his cousin Godwin, for five mansions of land at Stodley and ten at Chesterton¹.’

This gift included the mill at Cassington.

1070. Thus it remained until the Norman Bishop of Dorchester, Remigius, being one of the Commissioners for making the Domesday Survey, had his own name entered in the book as owner of Yarnton². At that time the lands of the Ensham monastery had

¹ Wood E and F 21. Dug. M. Ang. vol. 3, pp. 1 and 12.

² White Kennet.

been devastated by the Danes, and the convent was in a languishing condition. Remigius speedily removed his see to the more commanding site at Lincoln, and becoming acquainted with the convent of St. Mary's at Stow in the same county, which was a cell to Ensham, endowed it with all the possessions of Ensham Abbey. In his own words he says,—

‘I make a certain splendid addition to my other grants by giving to the monks of Stow, Ensham Abbey together with the town in which it is built and with all its appurtenances, that is to say—Scipfort, Rollendrich, Ærdington, Miceleton and the little church of St. Ebba's in Oxford¹.’

‘Addo etiam praeterea,’ saith Remigius in his confirmation charter, ‘eidem gloriosissimae dei genitricis ecclesiae sibi que famulantibus monachis (Stow Abbey) augmentum quoddam insigne, Egneshamnensem (ecclesiam) cum eodem pago in quo antiquitus construitur caeterisque sibi membris adhaerentibus, Scipfort scilicet ac Rollendricht nec non Ardintona atque Micletona, &c.²’

This translation was confirmed by William Rufus.

By some accommodation with the monks the Manor of Yarnton appears to have been lent or made over to the Bishop for a time, that he might, when convenient, make his residence there, as we may suppose when he had occasion to visit this part of the country. The year following this arrangement (1092) Bishop Remigius died, and was succeeded at Lincoln by Robert Bloet, who was a great friend to the monks; he restored the revenues and translated the monks from Stow once more to Ensham, ‘reserving the site of Stowe as a manor for his bishoprick³.’

The bishop was frequently at Woodstock with the King, and through his intervention Yarnton was again restored to the rightful owners and confirmed to them by royal charter⁴. Henry I confirmed to Ensham ‘Aerdingtona, id est—whatever Ensham had at Yarnton.’

It must be remembered that these lands were held of the Bishop in fealty as baron, and Yarnton was valued at two knights' fees. Robert Bloet died suddenly in Woodstock Park while riding with the King (1123).

Robert de Chesney became Bishop of Lincoln, who, having fallen under the displeasure of the new King, Henry II, had his barony confiscated, including Yarnton, and given to Bernard de St. Wallery.

¹ Wood, E, Gough, 91, and Tanner.

² Wood-Clark, vol. 2, p. 54.

³ Dugdale, u. s., vol. 3, p. 15.

⁴ The references for this matter are

from the copy out of the Ensham register in Wood, MS. E and F 21. Another copy in Gough MS. Oxon, 91; Dugdale's Mon. Ang. vol. 3, p. 15.

1154. Godfrey, the Abbot of Ensham, resented this violent action of the King's; an outrage all the more flagrant as it was a violation of a charter given by a Norman King. The infringement of the ancient rights guaranteed by the Saxon Kings was not looked upon in the same light at this period of history.

Abbot Godfrey frequently summoned Bernard of St. Wallery before the King's court, but all to no avail, and Bernard as a compromise offered fealty to the abbot. This was refused, whereupon the bishop consented to receive homage for the Manor of Yarnton, 'saving the rights of the Abbot and Convent of Egnesham.'

1186. St. Hugh, the next Bishop, made a fresh confirmation to Ensham of all rights :—

'Hugo Episcopus Lincoln. salutem Capellae de Eynsham et de Chersinton et de Ardington similiter etiam Ecclesiae liberae sunt nec soluunt pro denariis beati Petri nisi octo sol.'

'Capella de Erdinton ptinet caenub. Einsham.'

'Capella de Eynsham et capella de Erdinton in pprios usus; conf. p Hugo Ep̄ Lync¹.'

1190. In this year died Bernard of St. Wallery, fallen in the Crusade before the walls of Acre. About the same time Abbot Robert succeeded Godfrey in the government of the convent. The new Abbot straightway proceeded to vindicate his rights against the heir to the barony, Thomas, son of Bernard. He summoned him to show his rights in the Court of William de Bleys the new bishop.

1206. About this time the case came for trial before the Sheriff of Oxon, Thomas Basset, and a jury of twelve men from the neighbourhood of Yarnton was called to declare whether certain two carucates of land in Yarnton belonged to the Lay Fee of Thomas de St. Wallery or whether they were the 'Frankalmoigne of the Abbey.' For this enquiry the abbot owed the fee of one palfrey to the sheriff.

8th King John. 'To the Barons of the Exchequer Greeting. We charge you that as the Abbot of Ensham has paid a fine to us of one palfrey for an investigation in our court concerning two carucates of land with their belongings in Erdington, against Thomas de St. Wallery, that you respite it as long as the said Thomas is in our service beyond the seas by our command, because he has respite by our order. T. Simon de Pateshull at Winchester xij day of May².'

The bishop, William de Bleys, died before the conclusion of the suit in his court, and shortly after him 'Abbot Robert departed to

¹ Dugdale, vol. 3, p. 3.

² Close Rolls, vol. 1, p. 70.

Our Lord.' Adam the incoming abbot did not suffer the matter to drop, but carried it forthwith to Southwark before the King's Court.

1215-16. This last year of King John's reign was disturbed by the invasion of the French forces under the Dauphin Louis, and the suit of the abbot having been postponed until the King returned to England, finally, as the jury were prepared to take their oath, all law proceedings were stopped by the foreign invasion.

1219. Thomas of St. Wallery died this year, and his barony and lands devolved upon Robert de Dreux¹ husband of his daughter Annora. Upon the new succession the monks once more asserted their rights and summoned the Earl of Dreux before the Justices in Eyre at Oxford. The day was fixed for hearing the case when letters were suddenly brought from the King announcing that Robert de Dreux had been disseized of all his possessions in England, and that his lands were in the custody of Richard, the King's brother.

By this action a stop was put to all law proceedings for a time, and when a few years later the Earl of Cornwall became absolute owner of the Honour of St. Wallery (**1229**) the power and popularity of the new master prevented any further attempt to question the matter.

He died in 1272 at the Abbey of Hales in France, and his son Edmund succeeded to his Honours.

1285. In the thirteenth year of Edward I the Abbot of Ensham made a fresh attempt to recover his rights and openly demanded the restitution of the Manor of Yarnton before the Justices in Eyre at Oxford, with the exception of six messuages and six yards of land². This petition seems to have been made with no success, as Yarnton was made over by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, to the newly founded Abbey of Rewley. This gave rise to new complications in the business.

1292. The bishop, accustomed to the service of two knights' fees from the Abbey of Ensham, or the money equivalent, for the Manor of Yarnton, found that it was not paid, therefore he seized a certain number of cattle which were grazing there. This was followed by a vigorous protest from the Abbot of Rewley, who summoned the Bishop to answer for his action: the Bishop justified himself by showing that as far as the memory of man could reach the Abbot of Ensham had held the Manor of Yarnton from the See of Lincoln for two knights' fees.

¹ He is called Brus by Wood.

² Gough, 91.

At length a private settlement appears to have been arranged, and upon the morrow of our Lady's Day it was intimated to the attorney of the Earl of Cornwall that he might depart quit of his suit, for now the rights of all parties were safe. Thus the end of this long litigation, which had lasted more than two hundred years, was arrived at by compromise between the two Abbots.

1294. Each relinquished something of his rights, the Abbot of Ensham renounced all manorial dues without reservation (excepting the glebe), and the property was henceforth to be enjoyed by Rewley, which on its side allowed Ensham to collect tithes as well upon demesne as upon other land ¹.

REWLEY ABBEY.

1286. This abbey was founded in the ninth Edward I by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, in pursuance of his father's will, upon his lands at North Osney, to the honour of God and under the invocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

From the royal blood of its founder the house was known as 'Locus Regalis,' afterwards Rewley.

1294. Its charter of endowment, given in the twenty-second Edward I, contains the following clause ²:—

' . . . We therefore give and concede, for the soul of our father the said King Richard, the whole of our manor of Erdington, in the county of Oxford, as well in farmsteads, buildings, arable lands, dwellings, meadows, feedings, pastures, as in homage, fealty, service, customs, together with the Villenage and people, their cattle and followings, wards, reliefs, heriots, escheats and all other things evidently belonging to the said manor; together with our mills, which are situated at Kersington (Cassington).'

Many privileges belonged to this abbey in common with all the Cistercian order, and moreover they were exempted from coming to the court of 'View of Frankpledge' which also extended to any persons connected with them who were not resident at the time in the hundred ³.

An agreement was entered into and signed at Thame between the convent there and Osney Abbey by which the Abbot of Thame covenants

¹ Dugdale, u. s., vol. 3, p. 18.

² Dugdale, u. s., vol. 5, p. 699.

³ Dugdale, u. s., vol. 5, p. 698.

to pay to Osney 36*s.* 4*d.* for small tithes of North Osney upon which Rewley had been built; until half a mark of annual rent shall be restored to Osney from a piece of land¹ near the chapel of 'Frees' which Walter de Croxford held of the said canons, and 30*s.* of rent be provided from some other source, signed at Thame, feast of Assumption of B. V. Mary, ninth Edward I².

Thus gradually matters were accommodated between the rival monasteries.

The lay fee of the manor continued in the name of the Earl of Cornwall³ until twenty-eighth Edward I, soon after which date we find that the Abbot legally acquired the same for himself and house.

'The Abbot of Rewley, near Oxford, has paid a fine of one mark to the King, for leave to acquire for himself and his house the Lay Fee of North Oseneye and Erdington, &c.⁴'

Pope Nicholas' Taxation was levied in Yarnton, all favours notwithstanding⁵. We find the two interests of Ensham and Rewley entered as follows.

'Deanery of Wodestok.'

'Abbey of Eynsham, Church of Eynsham, with the chapels of Karsington and Erdington, £21 6*s.* 8*d.*'

'Abbey of Rewley, in Erdington and Basing in lands, rents of mills and courts, £11 12*s.* 4*d.*⁶'

The following anecdote shows us how the Abbot of Ensham levied his tithes previous to the intrusion of Rewley into the parish. The subsequent arrangement was doubtless in the interest of the common peace.

'Inquisition held at Oxford . . .⁷

'They say that Thomas, son of William the Reeve of Edington, and two men unknown from Eynsham, who collected the tithes in the autumn for the Abbot of Eynsham, seized Ralph Pogeys, of Bekebroc, in the Free Hundred of Wotten, and took him to Erdington within the Liberty of the Earl of Cornwall and imprisoned him; subsequently he was let out on bail

¹ This piece of land must be what is now known as 'Yarnton Frise.'

² Oxford Charters, 564, A.D. 1281.

³ Cal. Inq. Post Mort. 1300 (circa), vol. 1, p. 163.

⁴ Abbr' rotulorum Orig. 13th Ed. II, vol. 1, p. 251. Dugdale, u. s., vol. 5,

p. 698.

⁵ For these exemptions see following section.

⁶ Tax. P. Nich, pp. 31 and 44.

⁷ Rot. Hund., vol. 2, p. 48; 2nd Ed. I, 1273.

until a certain day, and when that day arrived they imprisoned him again until he should pay the fine of one mark, and put the Bekebroc men on bail, though they do not belong to Erdington, &c., and they distrained the said men in the aforesaid Hundred of the King where they have no power of distraint.

‘They say also that John, servant to the Earl of Cornwall at Erdington, and Walter Brid of the same, came to Bekebroc in the King’s Hundred aforesaid, and then seized Richard de la Pirie in his own house and took him and his horse to Erdington, and put his horse in the park of the said Earl of Cornwall to the prejudice of the Liberty of the aforesaid Hundred, but they know not how long they kept either the said Richard or his horse there.’

Valor Ecclesiasticus, Henry VIII.¹

‘Erdyngton. The Abbot and Convent of Eynsham for their property there, Leonard Huchynson being Vicar.

‘And his vicarage is worth; in all tithes, oblations, lands, and other emoluments upon an average of years

Total	.	.	.	£8 5s. 4d.
Tithes upon it	.	.	.	16s. 6½d.’

‘Rewley near Oxford.

‘Erdyngton in co. Oxon, Deanery of Wodestok.

‘Rent of the farm there, parcels of lands in demesne as let by an old indenture to Richard Andrews², £18 5s. 4d.

‘And in re the same Richard for a tenement called “Alleluya” let to him by indenture, £3 18s. 8d.

‘And in re Thomas Flecher for other parcels of demesne land let to him by indenture, £8 3s. 4d.

‘And in re Thomas Walker, for other parcels of demesne land, namely, one close called “Lynton” per an., £8.

‘And in re customary tenants there in proportion to their rents, £27 12s. 8d.

‘Total of everything . . . £66 0s. 0d.

‘Outgoings upon this property:—

‘To the said Vicar of Erdington and his successors in perpetuity for tithes and compositions, 20s. 0d.

‘Item, Richard Andrews, the bailiff, for his salary 20s. 0d.

Total of above . . . 40s.

And remains . . . £64 0 0.³

To the above may be added:—

‘Rent of two water mills, £3 6s. 8d.⁴’

¹ Valor, vol. 2, p. 183.

See p. 214.

² Richard Andrews held the manor farm upon a lease of 31 years at the above rent. Gough, 91, p. 20. The list in Augt. Office says Rd. March held this.

³ u. s., vol. 2, p. 254.

⁴ Dugdale, u. s., vol. 5, p. 698 (Cassington Mill).

THE CISTERCIANS AT YARNTON.

As for nearly three hundred years Yarnton was under the rule of the Cistercians it cannot be without interest to study the manner of life of these new lords of the soil.

1098. The Order of Citeaux was an offshoot of the old Benedictine Convent of Molesme in the Diocese of Langres near Dijon.

They differed from the parent stock by their greater strictness of life, and by their system of administration. Under the 'rule' of St. Benedict each abbey sufficed for itself and was dependent upon no other, the Cistercian houses, on the contrary, were each affiliated to the Mother House and were exempt from the authority of the Bishop. No land or church could be acquired by the Order unless it were made over in freehold to the Mother House of Citeaux.

Their exemption from episcopal jurisdiction and from the payment of tithes was confirmed by the See of Rome.

This matter of freedom from tithes calls for explanation; it was not a general exemption as is frequently imagined, but was subject to the following qualification—viz. this discharge from tithes was restricted to—

'their Demesne lands, in their own occupation, not leased out to be cultivated by others.'

We shall see the application of this restriction later on.

'In the earlier part of the reign of Hen. 1st, Pope Paschal 2nd exempted all the religious orders in respect of their demesne lands, from the payment of tithes; and Pope Alex. 3rd in his Brief to the Cistercian Abbot and Convent of Rivaulx, dated Nov. 20th, 1160, discharged all the possessions, actual and future, from such payments. The same Pope in his letter to the Bishop of Treves in 1179, after observing that some of his predecessors in the Apostolical See had granted to nearly all religious persons, "*decimas laborum suorum*," states that his immediate predecessor (our countryman Adrian IV) had restricted this discharge from tithes, "*solis fratribus Cisterciensis ordinis, et templariis, et hospitalariis*," whilst their lands were in their own cultivation or occupied at their own expense and not leased out to be cultivated by others. We further find that Pope Innocent IX (who died in 1254) discharged all the property of the Cistercians, which they had acquired before or even after the Council of Lateran, in 1215, from the payment of tithes. But this must be understood of lands, kept and reserved in their own manurance, tillage and occupation for the maintenance of hospitality and good housekeeping¹.'

¹ Dugdale's *Mon. Ang.*, vol. 5, and Geo. Oliver, D.D. The bulls, briefs, *Monasticon Diocesis Exoniensis*, by &c., conferring these privileges may be

The life of the Cistercian was one of labour and prayer.

At two in the morning the bell aroused him from his straw bed to prayer and meditation until daylight, and after the hour of 'Prime' all, not excepting the Abbot, went to labour in the field. Nothing is more curious in the accounts of the Cistercians than the constant mention and mixing up of spades and forks, ploughing and hay-making, and all the details of a farm with the divine office. For this reason their houses were always built in country places, and their dress was the ordinary rough gown of the working poor among whom they worked and lived in heat and cold throughout the seasons. The stern old monks sought for nothing picturesque, even their churches were devoid of costly ornaments and their Abbot's pastoral cross was of wood only. In the white habit of the choir monk, though it may have been worn from the devotion to the Mother of God, we see merely the cheapest undyed frieze of the country. At noon their scanty food was taken in silence. The allowance of food for each man was one pound of coarse bread and two dishes of vegetables boiled without grease. This sufficed for two meals. The drink was the common wine or beer of the country. In winter the food was reduced to one meal a day, and the hours of prayer lengthened as the work in the fields was shortened. After the midday meal weary nature was allowed an hour's repose. Work again called them until the bell for Evensong, and at last, each man, drawing his cowl over his head and bowing to the Abbot, laid himself down in his habit for a short night's rest.

Notwithstanding so much time given to manual labour the singing of the divine office in choir was most carefully regulated: to the end that all the religious who could follow the office should be present in choir, it was arranged that the outlying farms or granges should be managed by 'Lay or Convert' brothers, who were generally those who could not read or were otherwise debarred from the choir.

The community settled at Rewley were a colony brought by the Earl of Cornwall from the house at Thame under the Abbot Robert¹. It is said that they were suppressed in 1414 as an alien priory, but however that may have been the Cistercians continued at Rewley until 1536. At this period the house was found to be worth £174 3s. 6d.

seen in *Privilèges de l'Ordre de Cîteaux*, published at Paris, 1713.

The above particulars of the Cistercian Order are all taken from 'A concise

History of the Cistercian Order,' by a Cistercian monk. Thos. Richardson, London, 1852.

¹ Dugdale, *Mon.*, vol. 5, p. 698.

per annum. The editor of Dugdale, writing nearly two hundred years later, bears testimony to the innocence and utility of the life led by these religious men. Speaking of the desecration of their churchyard at Rewley he says, their remains

‘were often barbarously used without considering that the Persons there buried were renowned for all sorts of Virtues, and particularly for Justice, Clemency, and Bounty towards the Poor.’

The following is in the handwriting of Dr. V. Thomas at the end of the first register book.

‘Here follow the names of Persons who rented lands in this Parish of Rewley Abbey, co. Oxon, about the year 1530; together with their rents and the quantity of land occupied by each, from a record in the Augmentation Office:—

	£	s.	d.
Richard Andrews ¹ . A close and some arable	1	6	8
Thomas Gybbes ² , a messuage and two yards land ³	1	8	0
Thomas Spyer, a cottage and a close	0	6	0
Robert Eyers, a messuage and two yards land ³	1	12	0
William Long, a cottage and a close	0	3	4
Thomas Tackett, a cottage and garden	0	4	0
William Barnarde, a cottage and a yard land ³	0	14	0
William Shepherd, a messuage and two yards land ³	1	10	0
William Cocks, a yard land and a half	1	1	0
Richard Smythe, a cottage called Smytheforde	0	4	0
John Gybbs, a messuage and two yards land	1	13	4
John Short, a messuage and one yard land	0	17	0
Robert Stafforde, a messuage and four yards land	2	16	8
Joan Mores, widow, a cottage	0	1	4
Robert Page, a messuage and two yards land	1	8	0
William Mallyett, a cottage	0	5	6
Richard Wynne, a messuage and one yard land	0	17	0
Richard Symonds, a cottage	0	1	4
John Cocks, a messuage and one yard land	1	3	4
William Abbot, a messuage and two yards land	1	13	4
William Harryson, a cottage and close	0	6	8
Carried forward	19	12	6

¹ R. Andrews also rented the rectory.

² Thomas Gybbes made his will in 1544; he bequeathed to the church one Bushel of Barley, ‘witness George Brodethurst, my ghostly father.’ Turner, Coll. Ox. vol. 6. Top. Ox. c. 47.

³ In Dr. Thomas’ time the following persons occupied these grounds. The

names may help to identify the lands.

No. 1 was occupied by Miles.

No. 2 by Cooper (evidently both must form part of the present Exeter farm).

No. 3 by Bulley.

No. 4 by Hallum.

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	19	12	6
John Hyrde, a cottage	0	1	8
William Dayle, a yard land	0	10	0
Thomas Fallowe, a tenement and two yards land called "Fallowes." "Libere tenet."	0	10	0
24 Renters			
24 yard lands and a half	£20	14	2
Richard Marche, the Farm called Alleluya, about 8 yards	£4	6	8
Richard Andrews, the Manor Farm, about 18 yards	18	5	4
Thomas Fletcher, different closes, about 16 yards	8	3	4
Total	£51	9	6'

The above in Dr. Thomas' handwriting in Exeter College, evidently the same list as he wrote in the register book with the addition of the three latter names¹.

¹ From Computis Ministrorum, Com. Oxon. 24 Hen. VIII.

CHAPTER II.

YARNTON UNDER EXETER COLLEGE AND OTHER ECCLESIASTICAL PATRONS.

THE RECTORY AND VICARAGE.

Deed of Gift of Sir William Petre to Exeter College.

THE ancient Rectors of Yarnnton were the Abbots of Ensham, since the dissolution of that House the Rector has been the Rector of Exeter College, saving the few years that it remained in royal hands.

The gift of this rectory to the College is included in that of Kidlington and is as follows :—

‘Sciunt &c. . . . that I, Will Petre, have given, after obtaining the Queen’s license, to the Rector and Scholars of Exeter College, the Rectory of Ardington with the Tithes, &c., lately occupied by George Owen, Esq. . . . all which were lately parcell of the lands of Reginald Pole, Cardinal¹ and all which Rectories, &c., Queen Elizabeth gave me by letters patent dated at Westminster 18 May, 7th Eliz. (1565). And I have given all these for the carrying out my statutes, &c., and I have made Philip Huckle and John Hourd my attorneys to give seizin of all these to the Rector and Scholars.’ Dated Ging Petre (Ingatestone, Essex), 8th Nov. 8th Eliz. (1566).

The following is Elizabeth’s grant, part of the same entire deed which we have given in treating of Kidlington :—

‘Whereas our brother Edward 6 by letters patent dated 21 Dec. 5th Ed. 6th (1551) to farm let to George Owen, Esq. the Rectory of Ardington (then occupied by Richard Andrews, previously belonging to the Monastery of Ensham) reserving the timber, for 21 years from the following Michaelmas at the rent of £7; know ye that we for the sum of £1376 11s. 4½d. from

¹ The entire transaction relating to the purchase and gift of these rectories and lands is to be found in the office of the Lord Treasurer’s Remembrancer in

the Exchequer. It is all copied in full in Dr. Thomas’ Collection in the Bod. Lib., Gough, Oxon. MSS. 91, p. 22.

Sir William Petre grant the said Sir William Petre the reversion of¹ . . . the Rectory of Ardington, &c. and the rent of £7, except nevertheless to the Queen All Bells and all the lead in the gutters and windows . . . to be held of the Queen as of her manor of East Greenwich in Fealty only and not in Capite.²

Computus Ministrorum Domini Regis.
Eynsham nuper Monasterium, Com. Oxon.
Erdyngton, Firma Rector. £7 os. od.²

LESSEES OF THE RECTORY.

From the above documents we learn that the tenant of the rectory farm at the surrender of the Convent was Richard Andrews. After him came George Owen, the Lord of the Manor. After Owen there is nothing to show who had it until we come to 1641, when a lease was granted by the College to Nathaniel Harris at that time Vicar. In the preamble we are told that the lease had until lately been in the hands of Richard Brainthwaite. This person, being a member of the Spencer family, it is fair to infer that they rented the rectory until this date. Sir William Spencer was an absentee, consequently the lease passed into other hands.

This lease to Nathaniel Harris, and all subsequent leases, contains the following clause:—

‘They, the College, demise all and singular their lands and all things appertaining to their Rectory of Yarnton except the donation or presentation of and unto the Vicarage of Yarnton, being foreprised and excepted; further, that every tenant “shall and will at his own proper cost and charge, every quarter of every year during the said term procure and get a sermon by some preacher to be preached and uttered in the Parish Church of Yarnton aforesaid at the usual time or times during Divine service and upon such day or days as shall be meet and convenient for the Edification and Instruction of the Congregation of the said Parish³.”’

Nathaniel Harris died in 1644 and no lease appears to have been signed for fifteen years. We find the same gap occurring at Kidlington, probably from the same cause; men could have had little leisure or inclination for business while everything was rendered insecure by the disorder around them.

¹ Here comes in that part relating to Kidlington. See that history, p. 45.

² Dugdale, u. s., vol. 3, p. 31.

³ All these particulars are taken from the archives of Exeter College.

1659. This year a new lease was given to Thomas Andrews, and was renewed at intervals.

1684. Martin May of Kidlington took the lease of the rectory, and it continued in his name or in that of his executors for nearly fifty years. These leases include the chancel of the church with the obligation of repairing the same.

1708. The executors of Martin May, John Rowney of Oxford and John Saunders of Kidlington, renewed the lease in trust for Mr. Mann. Mann was the successor of May and probably his grandson¹.

1743. Lease to Phipps Weston, clerk, of Fifield, co. Berks, who also rented the tithes.

1777. Lease to Richard Osborne for ten years.

1788. Indenture between the College and the executors of Richard Osborne; viz. Joseph Brooks of Woodstock and Robert Morris of Witney, grocer.

1799. Tredwell Strainge redeemed the land tax for £426 12s. and the following year (1800) took the lease of rectory and lands. He is called surgeon and apothecary.

Ten years later the farm was advertised as

‘An enclosed farm (Free of Great Tithes) with a good dwelling-house and complete curtilage of 4 acres, 22 acres of arable, 18 acres of Meadow, and 2 acres of Lot Meadow. Together with the Great Tithes, which consist of the Fore Math or Crop of Hay on 8 acres of Meadow called the Tithe Plots and the Great Tithes of about 660 acres of arable and meadow.’

The Tithe Plots are situate in the Lot Meadows, in Oxhurst four acres or thereabouts, in West Meadow two acres, and in Pixey two acres or thereabouts. The residue of the estate is defined as the tithes of corn, grain, and hay of the parish.

1810. This year it was taken by William Young of Begbrook Hill.

1818. Tredwell Strainge took the parsonage or rectory and tithes for eight years at the rent of £239.

THE VICARAGE². CONSTITUTED BY THE BISHOP.

Whilst the long dispute concerning the Lay Fee of Yarnton was going on, the spiritual wants of the people were provided for by the Abbey of Ensham until the Bishop placed the vicarage upon an independent footing.

¹ See ‘Kidlington,’ p. 134.

² For the constitution of Perpetual

Vicarages see History of Kidlington, p. 34.

FROM THE INSTITUTION ROLLS AT LINCOLN.

‘Bishop Grostete’ :—

1235. ‘Erdington. William de Cudlyngton, Chaplain, was presented by the Abbot and Convent of Eynsham to the Vicarage of the Chapel of Erdington, an inquiry having been first made by the Rural Dean of Barthon, by whom he was admitted and constituted perpetual Vicar with the burdens, &c.

‘The Vicarage consists of a house wherein the Chaplains have been wont to dwell and all the altar dues of the said chapel, except the first legacy of persons dying in the township of Erdington, when the legacy consists in a live beast.

‘The perpetual Vicar should minister in the same and provide a suitable clerk and the proper and usual lights in the same chapel. The Abbot and Convent aforesaid must provide all other expenses connected with the said chapel¹.’

1252. ‘Anketillus de Werewell, chaplain, presented to the vicarage church of Erdington by Ensham².’

‘Bp. Sutton,’ 17th year, 4th Nov., 1296—

William de Kengham, chaplain, presented by Ensham, vacant because the last vicar, Richard de Berewyk, has been instituted to Charlbury.

‘Bp. Dalderby,’ 8th year, 2nd Sept., 1307—

Walter de Brouthon, chaplain, presented by Eynsham, vacant by resignation of William, the last Vicar.

‘17th Oct., 1338—

Walter de Broughton having been instituted to Wodeton, the Bishop (during the vacancy of Ensham) has given the vicarage to John de Stowe, priest.

‘7th July, 1349—

John de Blokle, priest, presented by Ensham, vacant by resignation of John³.

‘1st March, 1358—

Simon Gardener, of Okham, Vicar of Keleneden, in the diocese of London, and John de Blockele, Vicar of Erdyngton, have exchanged.

‘13th Nov., 1365—

William Pernel, Rector of Honyngton, in the diocese of Worcester, and Simon Gardener, Vicar of Erdyngton, have exchanged.

‘1st Dec., 1404—

John Tryok, priest, presented by Ensham on resignation of William Pernel.

‘16th Sept., 1414—

Thomas Haysifton (?), priest, presented by Ensham on death of John Tryok.

¹ Computed worth five marks—£3 6s. 8d. Gough, 91, p. 1. This had increased by the time of Henry VIII to £8 5s. 4d.

² Turner’s Hist. Coll. MSS. c. 55, vol. 14. Extracts from Lincoln Reg.

³ N.B. the Black Death, 1349.

‘18th Dec., 1432—

Robert Longe, priest, presented by Ensham.

‘7th Feb., 146 $\frac{5}{8}$ —

Walter Bate, M.A., of Lincoln College¹, presented by Ensham on death of Griffin Parke.

‘25th May, 1466—

Ensham having presented an unfit person the Bishop presents Magister Richard Graunger, M.A.²

‘22nd Oct., 1473—

William Syngar, priest, presented by Ensham on death of Richard Graunger.

‘22nd Oct., 1505—

William Fulle, deacon, presented by Ensham on death of Magister William Syngar.

‘27th Sept., 1508—

Marcus Car, M.A., presented by Ensham on resignation of William Fulle.’

THE VICARAGE. SUBSEQUENT TO SIR W. PETRE.

In the second register book of Yarnton occurs a note in Dr. Thomas’ handwriting, as follows:—

‘The Vicarage of Yarnton was given to Exeter College with the Great Tithes by Sir Will. Petre, its great benefactor,’

and elsewhere in the College papers we find also in Dr. Thomas’ handwriting:—

‘The original gift seems to have been lost.’ ‘Did Exeter College lose its Presentation in 1644 (sic)’?

The truth seems to be that the vicarage had never been included in the gift with the rectory, as it was in the case of Kidlington. We find in the Bishop’s Institution Book that the King presented immediately after the cession of Rewley Abbey and after his grant to Owen, the succeeding Vicars were presented by the Lord of the Manor. No notice is taken in that book of the two nominees of the College, Harris and Tozer. The Parliamentary Commission sat in Oxford in the early part of 1647, and the covenant was offered to the Vicars of parishes and Fellows of College. Henry Tozer refusing it, was evicted from his benefice and went abroad. John Goad,

¹ See Reg. University Ox., vol. 1, p. 26.

² See Reg. University Ox., vol. 1, p. 28; also Anstey’s Mun. Acad., 747.

Vicar of St. Giles and Fellow of St. John's College, was put into his vicarage of Yarnton. He held the living until the Restoration. The question of the right of presentation was not allowed to rest, and it is alluded to by Dr. White Kennet in his *Parochial Antiquities*. In 1695 Dr. Paynter, then Rector of Exeter, wrote to him as follows. He was remonstrating with Kennet upon a statement of his to this effect:—

'You mention &c. . . . "neither did Sir Will. Petre give advowsons of Yarnton and Cudlington; there being no presentation, institution or induction to the latter, and the former is in the gift of the Spencers" tho we conceive the College wronged as to that matter¹.'

Counsel's opinion was taken in 1820, and Patteson gave it against the College, and so the matter remains.

The manor and presentation to the vicarage were sold in 1695 by the co-heiresses of Sir Thomas Spencer, one-fourth part by the husband of the eldest sister, Viscount Tiviot, to the Swete family, and the remaining three portions to Sir Robert Dashwood.

The living was not worth more, or as much as £40 a year until Dr. Thomas raised it by his exertions to its present value.

Rawlinson's account of the living:—

'Lord of the Manor Robert Dashwood, Patron and Impropiator. Present Vicar Mr. Mitchell of Trinity College. Worth about £40 a year. Wake, Sunday after Bartholomew Day².'

The Commissioners appointed by the Bishop to enquire into the value of small livings received the following statement from Mr. Mitchell³.

'The Demesne lands pay me £10 yearly.

'Twenty and two more yards of land pay 20s. for each yard.

'I have 40s. for reading prayers (according to Sir Thos. Spencer's will).

'My house lets for 40s.

'The churchwardens are ready to answer of the truth of all this.

'I am &c. (signed) R. Michell, Vicar, 17th Sept., 1707.'

1736. This year Yarnton was again mentioned in this matter, and was returned as a living between £30 and £40 a year. Many years later the same was drawn by lot for an augmentation of £200.

1817. Mr. Thomas, in 1817, returned an answer to the 'Bounty

¹ Boase's Reg. of Exeter Coll. p. 85.

² B. 400, E. p. 37.

³ From an Extract out of the Arch-

deacon's Register, and papers in Exeter College.

Office' that his living had become worth more than £200 a year by reason of his success in a lawsuit, and to this he received the following response:—

'Revd Sir.—The account given of the nature and value of the Vicarage of Yarington lately drawn by lot has been laid before the Commissioners of "Queen Anne's Bounty" and the intended augmentation has been set aside on account of the present improved value of the Living¹.

'Signed (Richard Burn, Sec.).'

The Vicar then offered to pay £300 out of his own pocket if the Governors would give £200 more towards building a new house, but this was declined, and thus after 110 years, that is from the date of R. Mitchell's return in 1707, this discussion was closed, without the poverty of the living obtaining any relief.

VICARS OF YARNTON FROM THE YEAR 1530.

These names are copied, with the exception of Leonard Hutchinson, Henry Tozer and John Goad, from the 'Institution book of the Diocese of Oxford from 1542 to 1864'².

1535. *Leonard Hutchinson.* When the Ecclesiastical Valuation in the reign of Henry VIII was made, Leonard Hutchynson was Rector of Bladon and of Croughton, Northants, as well as Vicar of Yarnton. He took his degree of B.A. at Baliol College in 1506, and M.A. 1509, and is described at the time as being a great promoter and encourager of learning. In April 1514 he was chosen 'Northern Proctor,' in September 1518 was elected Master of University College, and afterwards took the degree of Doctor of Divinity³. Upon a commission being appointed to enquire into the articles upon which John Wycliffe had been condemned, Hutchynson was one of the four who met in St. Mary's Church for that object⁴. He died in the beginning of October 1554, and was buried in the chancel of his church at Croughton, but there is no monument or inscription to his memory⁵.

John Matthew.

1544, Dec. 14. *George Blunt.* Presented by the King on the death of John Matthew.

¹ From Dr. V. Thomas' Collection, Bod. Lib., Gough, 91, p. 133.

² Turner's MSS. Bod. Lib. Top. Oxon. c. 42.

³ Fasti, Bliss, p. 40.

⁴ Gutch, Annals, vol. 2, p. 50.

⁵ Marshall's Woodstock, pp. 292 and 447.

‘George Blunt, M.A. 1543, licensed 24 March, 154 $\frac{3}{4}$, inc. 7 April¹’

154 $\frac{6}{7}$, Mar. 24. *William Myllton als Gibbon*. Presented by the King on resignation of George Blunt.

156 $\frac{5}{6}$, Jan. 11. *Edmund Tarrey*, Fellow of New College¹. Presented by Simon Corbett.

1579, July 17. *Hugo Evans*. Presented by John Durant, armig.

‘B.A. 157 $\frac{0}{1}$, M.A. 1574, of Brasenose, in Orders¹’

He is supposed to have kept a school in the old vicarage house, which is mentioned by Wood (*Athenae*, vol. 1, p. 636).

‘John Ball of Cassington, the famous Puritan, educated in Grammar learning in a private school taught by the Vicar of Yarnton.’

Marriage and children, see Register of Yarnton.

1618 or 19, Sept. 21. *Nathaniel Harris*, M.A.

‘Native of Devon, Scholar of Exeter College, B.A. 1617, M.A. 161 $\frac{9}{20}$ ¹’

Marriage, children, and burial, see Register of Yarnton. In his day Antony Wood’s brother attended the school here.

1644. *Henry Tozer*.

‘Born at North Tawton in Devon in 1602, B.A. 1623, M.A. 1626. Elected Fellow 30 June, 1623. Allowed Degree of D.D. with others but did not take it. Expelled by Parliamentary Visitors in 164 $\frac{6}{7}$. Died as Chaplain at Rotterdam 11 Sep., 1650. He was Bursar of his College and in the College Register, 8 June, 1627, there is a curious apology for him from George Mountjoy B.A., for “unscholarly and uncivil behaviour”²’

He probably never lived at Yarnton, and his name never appears on the books.

164 $\frac{6}{7}$. *John Goad*. Presented by Parliamentary Commissioners. Dr. Goad appears to have been born in London, and the date of his birth we learn from a ‘Nativity’³ cast by his friend Dr. Richard Napier, physician and astrologer, to have been the 4th February, at four in the morning, 161 $\frac{5}{8}$. He came up from Merchant Taylors’ School, in 1632, to St. John’s College, where he graduated B.D., and became Fellow and eventually a Benefactor. In 1642 he was Vicar of St. Giles’s, Oxford. He was the author of several pieces, and while the King was at Oxford, acted in a play before the Court, assisted by Abraham Wright, a Yarnton man⁴. He was presented to

¹ Reg. University, vol. 1 (Boase).

² Reg. of Exeter Coll., Boase, p. 62.

³ Ashmolean MSS. 436, p. 64.

⁴ Wood’s *Athenae*, vol. 2, p. 838.

the Vicarage of Yarnton by the Chancellor and Masters of the University by virtue of an Act of James I, disabling Recusants from presenting to church livings¹. He remained at Yarnton until the Restoration, and during those years all the parish books are most carefully kept in his handwriting. In 1661 he retired from the living, and accepted the offer of a school at Tunbridge Wells. Soon after he left this for the headmastership of Merchant Taylors' School, which he filled for nearly twenty years; after which time he kept a private school in Piccadilly². A few years before his death he was reconciled to the Roman Catholic Church in Somerset House, indeed it was his suspected inclination that way which led to his leaving his post at Merchant Taylors'. Dr. Goad was a man of many parts, and of great activity of mind; his intimacy with Dr. Napier earned him the title of 'Astrologer,' but a volume of his letters still preserved show little more than current remarks upon the weather. His last letter written a few days before his death, is interesting, and shows that death was not unexpected by him³. . . .

'Sept. 30th 1689.

'Honoured Sir,

'The failures of the last, this month will make amends, ffoggy, gloomy, wet and windy. Ye comfort is you have a good house over your head and I hope you will weather many a Sol Mars and Saturn and Mercurie though for my part I dread this winter approaching, I should be glad to hear of your state of health: it will comfort Sir, yr servant, J. Goad.'

He died three days later, 2nd October 1689, aged 74, and was buried among his own relations at Great St. Helen's Church, London. Two elegies were written in his honour; one by James Wright, the other by Joseph Barnes, an old pupil, beginning:—

'Can thus a Father of our Israel dye
And none step forth to sound his Elegy?'

Dr. Goad's portrait, a woodcut, may be seen in the 'Hope Collection' of engravings in Oxford.

1661, Sept. 10. *Phillip Potter*. Presented by Sir Thos. Spencer on the cession of J. Goad. This account is found of him:—

'1664, Nov. 10. Philip Potter, Vicar of Yarnton called and objected that he, being Vicar of Yarnton in the Diocese of Oxford, being canoni-

¹ Wood-Gutch, vol. 4, p. 555.

² Gillow's Biographical Dict. of Eng. Catholics.

³ Ash. MSS. 368, p. 308; this volume is entirely letters from J. G. to R. S.

cally bound to residency upon his said Vicarage yet he doth neglect to reside there¹. He answereth and saith, that notwithstanding he doth not constantly reside thereon yet he hath his bedde there and doth come over thither weekly and doth kepe a person there in constant fee that if any urgent occasion doe happen for his presence he should come over to Oxon to give him this urgent notice that he might make his addresse thither which he doth accordingly. And he humbly prayeth that in Regard he doth now reside in the University to improve himself in his studyes and prepare himself for his Degree of B.D., that the liberty allowed by the Statute of this Land to persons of his condition may be indulged to him. As for his missing prayers on holydays hee confesseth that he hath been falti therein. But he sayeth that has been caused by the neglect of the parishioners for he hath read prayers there 5 or 6 holidays successively and there hath been none present besides the parish clerk. As for Sundays he saith he never missed more than twoe (one was some years since, the other by sudden occasion of sicknesse which seized on him on Saturday night and detayned him by an irresistable hand), but for this he submitteth himself and promiseth not to offend againe in the like.'

Eventually he appears to have been deprived of his living, which was given to John Venn in 1678, but Mr. Potter's name still occurs as Vicar in 1699, when he signed himself as such as witness in a case at law.

1678, May 28. *John Venn*. Presented by Sir Thos. Spencer on the deprivation of P. Potter.

1681. *Thos. Pigott, M.A.* Presented by Sir Thos. Spencer on the cession of John Venn. He was son of Henry Pigott of Lincoln College, Oxford, who was born in Staffordshire, and was Minister of Rochdale in Lancaster, where he published some assize sermons in 1675². Thomas Pigott was born at Brindle in the aforesaid county. He took the degree of B.A. in 1675, M.A. 1678, was elected Fellow of Wadham College in 1679, and became Vicar of Yarnton two years after. He retained his Fellowship with his Vicarage, and was also appointed Chaplain to James, Earl of Ossory. In No. 151 of the Philosophical Transactions, is a paper from his hand giving the account of an earthquake which occurred at Oxford (17 Sept. 1683), and the neighbourhood. He also made a discovery in music of a phenomenon relating to the sympathy between lute and viol strings, which is also printed in the same society's papers, No. 134, p. 839, April, 1677³. Of this discovery Wood says,

¹ Bishop's Court Book, Oxon. Turner's MSS. Top. Oxon. c. 56. Historical Coll. vol. 15.

² Wood's Fasti, vol. 2, pp. 132 and 209.

³ Plot's Oxfordshire, pp. 69, 294, Edition, 1705.

‘that it was first made by William Noble¹, M.A., of Merton College who kept it to himself, but Pigott being a more forward and mercurial man got the credit of it.’

Thomas Pigott became Fellow of the Royal Society; he died in the house of the Earl of Ossory in St. James’ Square, Westminster, on the 14th Aug., 1686, and was buried in the church of St. James’, Piccadilly.

168⁶/₇, Jan. 10. *Robert Michell, M.A.*, Trinity College. Presented by Robert, Viscount Teviot, and the three surviving Spencer co-heiresses, on the death of Thos. Pigott.

1720, Aug. 2. *Henry Brereton, LL.D.*, 1707. Presented by Robert Dashwood, arm., on the death of Robert Michell.

‘H. B., gent., St. John’s Coll., Mat. 26 May, 1693; B.C.L. 1700. Vicar of Kirtlington 1707, and of Yarnton 1720. Rector of Kislingbury, Northants, 1728. Buried there 20 May, 1736².’

172⁸/₉, Feb. 8. *William Bowdery*. Presented by Benjamin Swete, arm., on the cession of Henry Brereton.

1733, Nov. 17. *Richard Hawkins, M.A.* Presented by Dorothy Dashwood, of Wickham, on the cession of William Bowdery. He is supposed to have built the present vicarage house³.

17³/₄₀, Mar. 7. The same presented by Dorothy Dashwood, of Grosvenor Square, Westminster, on the cession of the same, he having been instituted to the Rectory of Begbroke. See that parish.

174⁶/₇, Feb. 20. *Robert Rogers, M.A.* Presented by Dorothy Dashwood, of Grosvenor Square, on the cession of Richard Hawkins. Rogers lived at Iffley, and on that account his vote was disallowed at the election of 1754⁴.

¹ A person of this name was cook of Merton. See Brodrick’s Merton, p. 357.

² Alumni, Ox., J. Foster.

³ Bloxam’s Reg. of Mag. Coll., vol. 1, p. 143, ‘Richard Hawkins, res. 1725, matric. March, 1723-4, æt. 18. Son of William Hawkins of Bloxham, co. Oxon. Pleb. Clerk, 1725-9, Adm. Chaplain, Jan. 1728-9-1765, B.A. 1727, M.A. 1730.’ ‘Jan. 1765, repentinâ morte abreptus erat.’

⁴ The following is found in Bloxam’s Register of Magdalen College, vol. 6, p. 241:—‘Robert Rogers, of Iffley, co. Oxford, res. 1744, mat. at Pembroke

Col., Oxford, 1734-5, aged 15. Son of Robert Rogers, of Oxford (City), Cler. B.A. 1738, M.A. 1741, B.D. 1750, Prob. F. 1744-1761, Jun. Dean of Arts 1750, Bursar 1751, Vice-Pres. 1760. Presented to Swaby (Lincoln) 25th Feby., 1761. Died 20th April, 1761. Buried within the altar rails of St. Aldate’s church, Oxford. On a slab was inscribed “Robertus Rogers, S.T.B. Coll. B. M. Magdalenae Socius, obiit April 20, 1761.” ‘A.D. 1761, Ap. 20, Rob. Rogers, S.T.B., variolarum tabe correptus morti occubuit.’

1761, Oct. 3. *Thomas Gregory, M.A.* Collated by the Bishop through lapse on the death of Robert Rogers.

1780, July 12. *John Tesh, B.D.* Presented by Sir Henry Watkins Dashwood on the death of Thos. Gregory.

'Son of Samuel Tesh of North Kelsey, co. Lincoln, gent., Corpus C. Coll., Oxford; mat. 26 June, 1760, aged 16; B.A. 1764; Fellow, M.A. 1768; B.D. 1777. Vicar of Yarnton 1780, and of Childrey, Berks, 1790, until his death 8 Dec. 1799¹.'

1800, Jan. 7. *Robert Trotman Coates, B.D.* Presented by Sir Henry Watkins Dashwood on the death of John Tesh.

'Son of Robert Coates of Sodbury, co. Glos., cler. Corpus C. Coll., Oxford; mat. 11 July, 1781, aged 17; B.A. 1785; M.A. 1789; B.D. 1798. Vicar of Yarnton 7 Jan. 1800. Rector of Steeple Langford, Wilts, 1802. Rector of Sopworth, Wilts, 1809².'

1803, Feb. 12. *Vaughan Thomas, M.A.* Presented by Sir Henry Watkins Dashwood on the cession of Robert Trotman Coates.

'Son of John Thomas of Kingstone, co. Surrey, arm. Oriel College; Mat. 17 Dec. 1792, aged 17. Fellow of C. C. C., Oxford, until 1812; B.A. 1796; M.A. 1800; B.D. 1809; Chaplain 1832-44; Vicar of Yarnton 1803, and of Stonleigh, War., 1804; Rector of Duntsbourne Rouse, co. Glos., 1810, until his death 26 Oct., 1858, aged 83³.'

Dr. V. Thomas was a man well known to his generation as an active able man of business. Those who have read these notes will see what he did for his parish of Yarnton. For several years he served the church of Begbroke, and was appointed curate to Wood Eaton by Dr. Cooke, whose daughter he married, but was not allowed to accept that charge by the Bishop. He rebuilt the vicarage at Yarnton, but resided in Oxford, where late in life he married a second time. Holywell Lodge for some years was occupied by him; he died in the large house overlooking Magdalen bridge at the bottom of High Street, and is buried at the east end of the churchyard of St. Peter's-in-the-East. Dr. Thomas wrote voluminously in the public papers, and during the epidemic of the cholera was most active in his suggestions. His works are noticed in the Gentleman's Magazine, 1859, Part 1, p. 320.

1858, Nov. 4. *Peter Maurice, D.D.*, Chaplain of All Souls'. Presented by Warden and College of All Souls', in right of fourth turn belonging originally to Mr. Ben. Swete.

¹ Alumni, Ox., Foster.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

Dr. Maurice was a good musician, and wrote several hymns¹, to which the Prince Consort added the music. He was buried in 1878 at Highgate Cemetery, near London. A marble tablet to his memory is in the church at Yarnton.

1878. *James Alexander Balleine*, of Exeter College, M.A., 1876.

'Second son of George Balleine of St. Hellier's, Jersey, gent., Exeter Coll.; Mat. 29 Jan., 1870, aged 19; B.A. 1874; M.A. 1876; Vicar of Yarnton 1878². Resigned 1890 and went to Acock's Green near Birmingham.'

1890. *Ernest William Lomax*.

'Can. Scholar of Lincoln, 1876; 1st cl. Prelim. Theol. Exam. 1887, Univ. of Oxford, 1889. Ordained Priest, Lincoln, 1879. Formerly Curate of Clee, Linc.; Lymm, Cheshire; Kirtlington, Oxford; Chaplain of Univ. Coll., Ox., 1890. Crockford.

THE VICARAGE HOUSE.

The following account of the Vicarage House is from a paper in the Diocesan Registry, signed by Dr. Thomas :—

'I think it was built either during the Incumbancy of Richard Hawkins from 1733 to 1746 or during that of Robert Rogers. (We know that Rogers did not live here.) The tradition is that it was built by Richard Hawkins who was also Rector of Begbroke, who built the Rectory House there, which house answers room for room to the Vicarage house at Yarnton, such at least was its correspondance until the Begbroke Rectory was enlarged. The Yarnton Vicarage house formerly stood by the side of the village road in front; it stood there in the time of Hugh Evans who kept a well frequented school there as did Nathaniel Harris. I think the present house was built about 1745, a mere cottage house with a staircase which scarcely held out 3 feet. The undersigned altered and enlarged it at different times between 1849 and 1852, nearly doubling it in depth and raising the roof, and making a new hall and staircase, the cost of which as appears by the bills was between £200 and £300 including the underdraining all round the House and throughout the forecourt and garden. He also obtained Sir G. Dashwood's consent to build a washhouse and oven resting upon Sir G. Dashwood's boundary wall. He also built a roomy two stalled stable and obtained Sir George's consent to appropriate a questionable boundary hedge to the North of the Garden on the line of which, when grubbed up, he built a substantial brick wall and by the side of which he made a carriage road and put up a pair of folding gates with

¹ He composed an Evening Service in E. 'With Angels,' &c. Tunes in four

parts, Supplement to Choral Harmony.

² Alumni, Ox., Foster.

side gate for horses opening upon Church lane ; by which carriages and horses are enabled for the first time to enter the Vicarage premises without going through the Church yard.' Signed Vaughan Thomas, 1855.

The Will of Benjamin Swete :—

' This Indenture made this seventh day of September in the fifth year of our Sovereign Lord George the 2nd, &c. 1730, between Benjamin Sweete of the parish of St. Clements' Danes in the county of Middlesex, Esq., on the one part, and the Honble. George Clerke of the University of Oxford, Doctor of Laws, on the other part, that whereas the s^d Benj. Sweete is seized or intituled to the fourth Turn or Right of Patronage of in and to the Vicarage of Yarnton in the co. of Oxford, now this Indenture witnesseth that he the s^d Benj. Sweete for and in consideration of the great esteem and regard that he has for the s^d George Clerke and for and in consideration of the sum of Five shillings in hand well and truly paid by the s^d George Clerke unto the s^d Benj. Sweete the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath granted and confirmed &c. unto the s^d George Clerke and his heirs &c. all his title and interest of in and to the said Advowson Donation and Right of Patronage to the said Vicarage and parish church of Yarnton &c. for ever.'

Signed Benjamin Swete.

Dr. Clerke¹ bequeathed this Right of Presentation to the College of All Souls' in a codicil to his will, made upon the 12th Nov., 1734, and proved in London 27th Nov., 1736, as follows:—

' Item, I do give and bequeath to the said Warden and College all my right and title to the fourth Term of presenting to the Vicarage of Yarnton, in the co. of Oxford, for the use and benefit of the Chaplains of the said College who have but a slender provision.'

It was not until the death of Dr. Thomas in 1858, that All Souls' were able to exercise this right.

THE FAMILY OF SWETE.

This family was settled at Trayne or Trewin in Devonshire, which estate they inherited from the heiress of the family of Scoos. Benjamin Swete came into Oxfordshire with John, the 1st Duke of Marlbro', and was in some position of trust under him. 'So,' says

¹ 'Dr. George Clerke was Judge Advocate General to Charles 2nd and his three successors, Secretary of War to Will. 3rd; Secretary to Prince George of Denmark; one of the Lords

of the Admiralty in the reign of Queen Anne; and in five Parliaments Burgess of the University. Fellow of All Souls' for 56 years.' Doble's Hearn, vol. 1, p. 355, Historical Soc.

Dr. Thomas, 'was told me by old Rogers, the clerk of Begbroke.' If this be true he must be the same B. Swete so often mentioned in the money transactions between the Duke and the Parliament. He probably was of service to the Duke during some of his campaigns. The fourth portion of the Manor of Yarnton which Mr. Swete bought from Visct. Teviot, Jane Spencer's husband, is divided into two portions, one 'Frice Farm,' belonging now to Mr. Geo. Walton, and 'Paternoster,' now the property of Mr. Brain (late Walker, late Lay). Mr. Benjamin Swete died in 1744, and is buried in the churchyard at Begbroke.

Adrien Swete succeeded to the Yarnton property, and voted in 1754. He was the last of that family, and died in 1755. His estate was left to the Rev. J. Tripe, of Ashburton, who took the name of Swete. Within a few years of the present date, the Yarnton (Frice) farm was sold to Mr. G. Walton, by the representatives of the Swetes, who appear to be resident in the south of Ireland.

'The quarter of the Manor, Lady Tyviot's share; money paid, but not to come into possession until the death of Dame Jane 12 years after. Dr. Short's¹ farm (Paternoster)—Swete's and other fragments.

'John Hall, Tenant of Windmill farm, purchased some closes forming part of the quarter share and he enclosed the frontage of waste in open defiance to the Dashwoods, about 17 years ago².'

Mr. Swete purchased Medley, and built a gentleman's house there. This house afterwards served as a public house, but later on was sold by auction and pulled down by the purchaser, 25th March, 1773. The elevation may be seen in B. Cole's Map of Port Meadow, 1720³.

1840, Jan. 25. A letter to the Vicar from Benjamin Swete, Rector of Kilbrittain, Bandon, about his share to the presentation to the living, he acknowledges that he had no right to the presentation (in answer to a letter from the Vicar), but he claims manorial rights. He can tell nothing further about his ancestor, and refers to a parochial history the Vicar is drawing up⁴.

¹ Dr. Thomas Vowler Short, one of the family of Bickham, co. Devon, consecrated Bishop of Sodor and Man in 1841. Translated to St. Asaph's, July 27, 1846. He was educated at Westminster, thence to Christ Church, where he took a double first. Rector of Cowley; then of a parish near Winchester, then Rector of a London parish (St. George's, Bloomsbury). He mar-

ried Mary Davis, widow of J. J. Conybeare. His brother's sons were both educated at New College. His sister married Archdeacon Wickham of Gresford.

² Gough, 91, p. 192, written in 1852.

³ Wood-Clark, vol. 1, p. 630, also Hearne's Diary, Bliss, p. 393.

⁴ Gough, 91, p. 190.

1853, Dec. 3. Mrs. Walker, of Paternoster farm, writes to the Vicar:—

‘Since I saw you yesterday Sir Geo. Dashwood called on me respecting the Manorial rights of the Bishop of St. Asaph. Mr. Dayman said the Bishop had no rights to a quarter of the Manor—ever since I have been here, which is 35 years, he has always taken the 4th part—the Bishop always subscribed for Yarnton to the Infirmary¹.’

TITHES: GREAT AND SMALL².

The tithes of Yarnton were especially named in the gift of the rectory by Sir Wm. Petre to Exeter College. The tithes of corn, grain, and hay, with the foremath of certain plots of meadow ground, belong to the rectory: the smaller tithes are paid to the Vicar in compensation money. About the year 1808 a suit in the Exchequer was begun between the Vicar, Mr. Thomas, and the tenants of Yarnton, three principal names being mentioned, viz. Hall, Osborn, and Hallum, to settle the right of the College and Vicar to the tithes. In evidence in their favour the original deeds of sale by Henry VIII to Owen were produced, showing that the tithes were not included in the sale of the manor; also the grants of Elizabeth to Petre, and, finally, all the tenants were interrogated with the unanimous result, viz.:

‘that they had always considered that a sum of money was paid to the Vicar as composition for tithes, other than Corn, Grain, and Hay.’

The custom of the College appears to have been to let the tithes on lease. In 1735 Richard Lock resigned the lease he held owing to poverty and reduced circumstances.

Several persons follow whose names are mentioned in treating of the rectory, until about 1808 it was agreed for the greater accommodation of occupiers of land in the parish, to allow the three principal tenants to be responsible for the whole tithes and to undertake to collect the payment thereof.

¹ Gough, 91, p. 205.

² ‘Commutation of Tithes, Yarnton and Begbroke, 1838.’ Dr. Symonds, vol. 8, p. 307. Extracts from Jackson’s

Journal. There is a synopsis of the land subject to tithes in Dr. Thomas’ handwriting. Gough, 91, p. 207 (date of award, Nov. 29, 1845).

From a survey made of the parish in 1774 by Mr. Thomas Smith ¹.

‘Yearly estimate of Great Tithes.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
4 acres meadow, Oxhay, at	1	0	0	=	4	0	0
2 „ „ Westmead at	1	0	0	=	2	0	0
2 „ „ Pixey	1	0	0	=	2	0	0
222 Arable land on East side of parish at	0	3	0	=	33	6	0
35 acres of meadow marsh land at	0	2	0	=	3	10	0
61 Arable on North and South sides at	0	4	0	=	12	4	0
370 Meadow ground on South sides at	0	2	6	=	46	5	0
661 acres.	£103 5 0						

There are some meadows in the Parish near the Wolvercot field which are summerfed at present, but when mowed are Titheable as the other parts.’

The above estimate shows an increase of 1*s.* to 2*s.* an acre upon ploughed land, and a decrease of 6*d.* an acre upon meadow since the year 170 $\frac{1}{2}$.

From Dr. Symonds’ MSS. vol. 4, p. 41 :—

‘Yarnton, 1811. Court of Exchequer. The Revd. Vaughan Thomas, Clerk, Plaintiff v. Hall and others, Defendants ².

‘The Pleadings being opened Mr. Dauncey for the Plaintiff stated that this was a bill filed by the Vicar in 1807 against certain of the Occupiers of the Parish of Yarnton, to recover the value of the small tithes retained by them since Oct., 1804. The Defendants by their answer insisted that the Vicarage was not endowed with such Tithes and that the Vicar was not entitled thereto, and they refused to render him such Tithes, or to pay any composition for the same. No Vicar of Yarnton was ever known to have received any Tithes in kind, but certain small money Payments had been made in Lieu thereof, which when the Plaintiff came to the living, and for above 100 years before amounted to £31 13*s.* 5*d.* per ann.

‘All the Occupiers except the Defendant had in 1807 acquiesced in the Propriety of making a small Increase to these composition monies. The Plaintiff brought in evidence an ancient Roll of Institutions in the time of Bp. Grostete, from Lincoln, by which it appeared that the Vicarage had been endowed “toto altaragio” previous to 1232, and was then worth £3 6*s.* 8*d.* per ann. By the ecclesiastical Survey, 26th Hen. 8, it appeared that it was a Vicarage endowed “Decimis et Terris,” and was worth £8 5*s.* 4*d.* per ann. By a Terrier in 1807 it was shewn that the Vicarage

¹ Smith’s Survey of 1774 should be in Exeter College. It was lent in 1812 to Mr. Taunton and not returned. These extracts are from Gough, 91, p. 39. A copy of a survey without name, written out in the hand of Dr. Thomas, is in Gough’s Top. Oxon. No. 82. c. 12,

it may be the missing document. It is included in another ‘Survey of Lands and Great Tithes in Yarnton,’ made by Thomas Hall, 1817.

² This is a circular written by Dr. Thomas and is printed, in the library of All Souls’.

was worth about £32 per ann. without mentioning any Tithes . . . it appeared 29th Hen. 8th that the Manor farm paid 20s. a year to the Vicar for the tithes thereof. There was a great body of evidence by the deposition of witnesses confirming such old payments having been made for all Tithes, except Corn, Grain, and Hay.

‘The Solicitor General for the Defendants contended that no actual endowment had been produced; that the entry in the Institution Roll of 1232 although coupled with the Valor of Hen. 8 and supported by other Documents and by the Usage, was not sufficient evidence of its having been made; that a great part of the land in the occupation of the Defendants was entitled to exemption¹ from Tithes as having belonged to one of the privileged orders of monks, and farther that supposing the Vicarage to have been endowed, it appeared that the Defendants paid certain old Moduses, which if not good ought to have been determined by a proper notice. No evidence was produced to prove the Exemption, nor to rebut the Plaintiff’s case, except three Receipts signed by him for Tithes due Michaelmas, 1804.

‘The Court declared that the Vicar had given the Evidence of his Endowment which entitled him to their Decree.

‘That the Defendants should account to the Plaintiff for their small Tithes and pay him the value thereof from Michaelmas, 1804, with the Plaintiff’s costs in this suit.’

This suit cost the defendants about £800.

The two following papers are from the archives of All Souls’ College²:—

The above circular is the first of the collection, which is followed by another printed in 1844, to the effect

‘that Mr. V. Thomas sets forth his reasons why he had not pressed the matter to the end in the case of the trial concerning the small tithes in 1804, regarding several farms in Yarnton; such as the Exeter College Farm, because the College had courteously met him by the production of all their evidences; in respect to Merton College farm, because it was occupied by Ann Miles, a widow, as she was a poor woman; in regard to Mathew Young’s farm, as his father had offered in case of difficulty arising, to gather the tithes himself for the Vicar; and in the matter of several other occupiers of land, because he had had the benefit of their affidavits. Again, by reason of the tithes upon several crops having been inadvertently left out in the bill of Complaint, and further because Mr. Joseph Rose occupying two farms in Yarnton and one contiguous to them in Begbroke, by driving his cattle out of the parish, unjustly diminishes the tithes due to

¹ Upon this exemption see p. 212. By the restriction named Yarnton could not apparently claim freedom from tithes.

² Page 279 of the printed list of archives.

the Vicar. All the endeavours of the Vicar to come to a peaceable decision having proved abortive he will henceforth pursue the course he took in 1807 and will promote his claims if necessary in a Court of Law.'

Letter from Mr. V. Thomas to Dr. Leighton, Warden of All Souls' College, dated July 10th, 1844.

Having gained his cause the Vicar writes :—

'... The Vicar of Yarnton loses no time in communicating to the Warden and Fellows of All Souls' as Patrons of the Vicarage in respect of every fourth presentation, that he yesterday agreed, at a meeting held in the Parish after due notice, to accept the sum of £290 per ann. as the amount of the future rent charge in lieu of small tithes, of which sum £261 6s. 8d. was settled by the Commissioners with the full consent of all the Representations of all the Properties of the Parish, as the amount of Rent charge specifically in lieu of all the Vicarial tithes: £28 13s. 4d. having been added thereto with the like consent by reason of the existing exemption of the present small tithe composition from all sorts of Parish rates. The Vicar of Yarnton has then the satisfaction of knowing that at his decease he shall leave to his successors a living nearly ten times greater in value than when he accepted it in 1803. He accepted it when it in value was no more than £31 13s. 5d. he shall leave it £290 0s. 0d. per annum¹.'

¹ From All Souls'.

CHAPTER III.

THE CHURCH AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.

THE plan of the Church of St. Bartholomew is early English¹, and in some respects very unusual. It consists of a nave measuring 45ft. by 15ft. 9in.; a south aisle, 48ft. by 14ft.; chancel, 23ft. 9in. by 13ft.; a fine perpendicular tower, 13ft. square inside, terminates the west end of the aisle, the east end of which opens into a mortuary chapel or chantry, as it might have been called in earlier times, where the remains of the Spencers rest.

The foundation of the church dates from Saxon times; we read of a chapel here belonging to Ensham Abbey as early as 1009; some slight remains of what might have been the ancient building are still to be seen in the two small windows in the chancel and the south door. The old tub-shaped font², still preserved in the church, seems to be of this period, and was rescued from its banishment to a farm yard by one of the late vicars.

The arches of the nave and the chancel-arch are of a much later date, and show that the church must have been rebuilt about the time of Bishop Grostête, who came to the See of Lincoln in 1235. He probably found the 'Capella de Erdyngton' in a sadly ruinous state, owing to the neglect of the patrons of the living, through the long years of litigation under which the parish had suffered and which were just

¹ The architectural details here are taken from Parker's *Deanery of Woodstock*, 'Architectural Antiq.'

² From churchwardens' book refers to this font. 'Paid for mending the Vant, 4s.,' 1611. 'For a covering for the Font, 21s.,' 1620. This old font has a wooden stand. The top

part is cut out to receive an octagonal shaped cover.

Dr. Thomas says, 'As soon as I became Vicar I placed the old font as a church relict in the aisle.' The 'new font was obtained from the churchwardens of St. Michael's, Oxford, in 1802.' Terrier of Yarnton.

concluded. Robert Grostête was an active Prelate, and made frequent visitations throughout his large diocese, and he obliged the Abbey of Ensham to convert its chapelry of Erdyngton into a perpetual vicarage¹, supported by the smaller tithes, accruing from the Manor and relinquished to them by the Abbey of Rewley.

The first Vicar appears to have been one William de Cudlyngton, whose portrait in his conventual dress is still visible in one of the windows.

The pillars of the nave are good early English (about 1250) and have cushioned caps. The chancel-arch, pointed, has on each side three slender shafts, the middle one banded; on the north side it is sunk, from the interments which have undermined it on that side². The roof of the nave and of the aisle are open perpendicular work, that of the chancel has been plastered over in late years.

It has been remarked that most of the churches round Oxford were restored in Henry VII's reign after the cessation of the Wars of the Roses, this was evidently the case at Yarnton. The one square-headed window of the perpendicular style, which is undoubtedly ancient, must be referred to this time.

1611. We now come to a period when it is usually supposed that all tradition of Gothic building had died out from the country. However this may have been in other places, our parish was fortunate enough for its next restoration to secure an architect who still remembered the cunning of his craft. About the year 1610 Sir Thomas Spencer undertook the building of a tower to the church, extensive alterations in the old fabric, and the erection of his own family chapel and mansion. The workmanship of the whole is exceptionally good, so is the design of the windows, and it would be impossible to assign a date to this work without extraneous knowledge. Similar windows are to be seen in Wadham College, in Hall and Chapel; a hint from Professor Freeman suggests that Sir Nicholas Wadham, being a Somersetshire man, may have brought his architect from that county, where the old traditions of Gothic building lingered longest. This

¹ The Vicar and a manse was then in existence. The vicarage was made a 'Perpetual Vicarage by this act of Bishop Grostête's in 1235, and the same deed found that he, the Vicar, was bound to find lights (*Luminaria*) for the altar of Yarnton Church.' See p. 219.

² Lysons seems to consider that these leaning columns were made so intentionally; he adduces the example of several Saxon churches, and gives the plate of Avington church in Berks. Bucks, vol. 1, p. 204. See Holywell church, Oxford, where the inclination is very apparent.

being so, what is to prevent the possibility of Sir Thomas Spencer employing the same man? The date of 1611, with initial T. S., is placed over the window of the tower, outside.

The arch opening from the tower into the aisle is coeval with the tower, and is closed by a screen of carved oak. Originally this was only a pair of doors, and has been filled up to keep out the draughts. Over this door is a painted shield bearing the Royal arms, and it is worthy of notice as being a very rare example of the Royal arms, prior to the Commonwealth, remaining in a church.

An order was issued from Parliament in Feb., 1651:—

‘that the King’s arms be removed and those of the State be placed in their room.’

The shield in question bears the date ‘King Ch. I 1634.’ The bearings are quarterly 1st and 4th counter-quartered France and England, 2nd Scotland, 3rd Ireland.

1616. This year the porch over the south door was built, partly at the expense of the parish, but the leaf is missing for this year from the old book.

1620. A door was put to this porch four years later, and was carefully catalogued ever after with the church plate.

1620. ‘For a dore to the church porch, 22s. 3d.’ ‘For roughcasting the church porch, 10s. 3d.’ ‘For painting the church porch and north dore, 2s. 6d.’

The porch, as it is seen at present, is ornamented within by a Jacobean plaster scroll and four shields bearing a lion rampant crowned, the arms of Rewley Abbey, and between them four fleur-de-lys.

The reason for committing the door of the porch to the churchwardens’ care seems to be that vagrants considered that they had a prescriptive right to ‘squat’ in the church porch. The writer remembers such an incident at Souldern. A thriftless family took possession of the porch, the door having been doing duty in a pig-sty for many years past. After repeated evictions and recriminations a new door was provided and kept locked.

At this time also considerable repairs were effected such as new timbers, painting and reglazing the windows, and the floor was levelled up in 1635.

The Puritan party, in their insane horror of superstition, had degraded the Christian altar to a common deal table set in the middle

of the church, round which men sat with their hats on to receive the sacrament; the High Church party, with better feeling, strove to restore greater propriety and dignity to the house of God, and under Archbishop Laud an order in Council was given, ordaining that the altars should be restored to the east end of the church and 'railed round to prevent the profanation by dogs¹.'

To this order seems to be due the erecting of the new altar rails in this church.

EXPENSES ABOUT THE CHURCH.

1626. 'Paid to Deane the mason for making the battlements, 30s. C. W. Book.

1629. 'For taking a day for the Chancel, 3s. 6d.

1638. 'For making the Rayles before the Co^m. Table; to John Farmer, a Joyner in Witney, £2. For the iron work, 1s. For the carriage frō Witney to Yarnton of the rayles for the co^m table, 2s. 6d. Pd. for breaking 20 stones in the Chancel, 3d.²'

This ordinance was followed in 1642 by another emanating from the House of Commons, when a Bill was passed for

'the taking away of all Innovations in any churches or chappels that hath been set up within this 20 yeares—as the Altar Rayles before the Co^m table, Pictures, Images or Crucifixes³ and that all Chancels be laid even and the steps before the co^m table or Altar be taken away⁴.'

To this may be referred the following:—

1642. 'Paid to Carter of Grossmead for mending the pavement of the church, 1s.⁵'

When peace was again restored, after the death of the King, the churchwardens, urged doubtless by the new Vicar, Dr. John Goad, who was a very able man, turned their attention to repairing the damage suffered by the church either through neglect or the chances of war. For years Yarnton had lain in the highway of the traffic of both armies, and from the extent of the repairs, the church would appear to have suffered considerably, remembering that it was little more than thirty years since the restoration by Sir Thomas Spencer.

1650. A contract was made with one Thomas Scrivener, who undertook to keep the church in repair

'for soe much as he was employed about for the space of seven years, proviso^e that the parish would find wood for his use.'

¹ Pictorial England. Archbishop Laud at the same time ordered the use of surplices.

² C. W. Book.

³ Scobell's Acts, &c., chh. 17 and 38.

⁴ Perfect Diurnal, 21st March, 1642.

⁵ C. W. Book.

1652-4-5. The windows were reglazed and mended, one window stopped up, a new seat was made 'where the maids sit,' and the tower repaired; several men were employed upon it for fourteen days, and 'fine stones to match the old work' procured.

1655. 'Pd. to Peter Hanks for 16 daies work at the foot of the Tower, £1 4s. 6d.' 'Do. 12 daies $\frac{1}{2}$ work about the Tower, 18s. 7d.' 'To Daniel Hill for 15 daies work serving the men about the Tower, 13s. 6d.' 'For free stone a load and $\frac{1}{2}$, 7s. 6d.' 'For two loads of choice stone to fit the old worke when the Tower was mended, 3s. 9d.' 'For five bushells of lime and carriage from Oxon, 5s. 1d.' 'To Edward Hutt for a daies work in laying the stone rubble in the church yard, 8d.'

1665. 'For a board for the table of marriages, 4d.'

1709. 'For cutting down the Ivy, 1s. Pd. Will. Parron for Whitening and Beautifying the inside of the church and for Plastering the outside, £5 5s. 0d.'

1715. 'For work done on the "Bartlemay" over the church, 2s. 6d. C. W. Book.'

1705. 'Roughcasting the Church and mending the windows, £1 6s. 6d.'

1710. 'Pd. the Clerk for going to Oxford for some sentences of Scripture to put up in the Church, 1s.'

1713. 'For making a drain behind the Church, 1s.'

The church was repaired in 1793 by Alderman Fletcher, who also gave the present font and placed the two shields upon the north door bearing his own and the Spencer arms, with the dates 1611, 1811.

The alabaster reredos was also the gift of the same Alderman Fletcher: it had been discovered under a floor in a house near St. Edmund's Hall.

There were originally six panels, and until late years five remained, now there are only four. It is not known who removed the two missing parts, which were these two first named:—No. 1. A female figure crowned, with a sceptre in her hand, before whom stands a king and other figures¹. No. 2. The two Marys kneeling at the foot of the Cross, on which appears the crucified Saviour received into the Mantle of the Deity. No. 3. The Wise Men's offering. No. 4. The betrayal with a kiss. No. 5. The bearing of the Cross. No. 6. The crucified Saviour on His mother's lap.

From the hanging sleeves of the soldiers, in the betrayal scene, it is supposed that the date of this sculpture must be the early part of the fifteenth century, the reigns of Henry IV and V².

¹ Skelton's Oxford.

² Notes by Dr. V. Thomas.

THE CHURCH LEADS.

The lead roof was in need of repair soon after Sir Thomas Spencer's restorations. In 1619 a large sum was spent upon it, upwards of £20 in two years. In 1627 the lead was recast at the cost of £11, and carriage of same 'for carrying to Woodstock and back, 10s.' In 1655

'It was agreed between Mr. Pudsey and Mr. Hopkins that Thomas Richards alias Needham of Woodstock should keep the leads of the parish church of Yarnton in sufficient repair for 7 years.'

THE CHURCH WINDOWS.

The east window of the church consists of three early English lancets with foliated heads under one arch, the middle one the tallest. The glass in the centre light, a large figure of St. Bartholomew, above which is a head of our Lord and below a modern figure of the same. In the side lights are two shields of arms and seven medallions of various subjects, most unsuitable to their position. Upon the north side of the chancel are two small windows, one pointed, one round headed, both deeply recessed from within and splayed; they are both filled with scraps of grisaille glass, and in one of them were once the arms of Clare: or, three chevrons gules¹.

The easternmost window of the nave is ancient, proved so by the remains of old glass in the head. It is a square-headed three lighted window of perpendicular work. In the tracery are four perfect figures and two broken. The two first represent two monks, one in the black habit², the other in the white, representing probably the two abbeys, patrons of Yarnton; the middle figures are an Abbot with crosier and label 'Nicolaus,' the other an Archbishop, 'St. Thomas'; the third pair of figures have only their heads remaining, one a woman with a nimbus and her name therein, Sca Julias (?), the other a man with bascinet cap and name illegible. The lights of this window are filled with incongruous pieces, several coats of arms, evidently brought from Oxford, and several medallions. In the centre light is a pretty 'Virgin and Child,' a large angel with 'M. Magdalena' beneath it, and four small quarries of birds in quaint device.

The birds in these quarries are beautifully drawn and finely

¹ Wood, MS. E. 1.

liam de Cudlington the first Vicar of

² Dr. Thomas says, 'Probably Wil-

Yarnton.'

executed. They are allegorical of divers states of life and their mottoes are as follows :—

1. 'Make the poure to pray well.'
2. 'Be styll or ellis saye well.'
3. 'And make god thy frende.'
4. 'At thy last ende.'

In the window behind the door the subjects are :—

1st. A hen in fashionable head-dress, middle fifteenth century, and a deep gauze veil hanging down her neck with the motto

'Greete richlyngre greeten.'

2nd. An owl ringing a bell with the legend

'We must pray for the Fox.'

3rd. A bird of the tit kind holding a flat dish in its claw, girded as a cellarer with belt and key, motto

'Who blameth this ale?'

4th. A skull.

The first and third lights are both heraldic, and the third a square upon which is represented a missionary preaching from a book in a field, with a staff in his hand.

The second window of nave, behind the door, is two-lighted, perpendicular style. In the head of this window is an 'Eye of Providence' surrounded by rays. In each light a large square, the Virgin and Child and St. Christopher, the arms of Magdalen and Queen's Colleges, several quarries representing birds bearing mottoes, and two white Tudor roses; the first a double white rose, seeded or, regally crowned of the last, with the initials H. R. Henry VIII for the Dukedom of York; the second a double white rose regally crowned, behind which are nine arrows, one in pale the rest saltirewise, points downwards, or, feathered argent. The rose is for Henry VIII, the arrows for Queen Katherine of Arragon. The arrows are sadly emblematical of the poor Queen's marriage; this manner of representing the device seems to be unusual¹.

The west window of nave has three lights and six squares of ancient glass.

¹ Mottoes from a little pamphlet printed by Shrimpton, Oxford, 1844, upon the heraldic devices in Yarnton church, by Mr. Henry Gough.

A double white rose intersected down the middle, impaling a bundle of

arrows, crowned and surrounded by rays, was a badge borne by Queen Mary Tudor in remembrance of her father and mother. See *La Croix, Science and Literature of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*, p. 315.

The tower window, good perpendicular work. Head of window filled with curious orange coloured glass and the rest with scraps of old glass.

Two little pointed one-lighted windows in the aisle, old glass. One two-lighted window containing twelve lovely medallions of various scripture subjects.

Three two-lighted clerestory windows.

The whole of the glass in the church, with the exception of the old figures in the north-east window, is the gift of Alderman Fletcher.

1620-85. The churchwardens' book contains many entries for repairing the windows.

1620. 'Stopping five and twenty quarrels, 2s.'

One window was stopped up in 1652. For glazing the church windows in 1685, £1 15s. 3d.

1703. 'For mending the church windows that the Wind blew down, 8s.'

The great storm that this refers to was an event of national interest, from the havoc it caused throughout the south part of our island. It began upon the evening of the 26th of November, and increased in violence during the night until seven the following morning. During this fearful night every ship, save four, laying at anchor in the Thames was destroyed. Dr. Kidder, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, was crushed in bed with his wife by the fall of a chimney stack in the Palace at the same time. This hurricane is recorded in many places, especially at Tetbury, where the spire of the church was blown down. Such a public misfortune was met by public prayer and fasting :—

'A form of prayer concerning the Wind.' 'A book of Proclamation for a fast concerning the Wind.'

THE CHURCH CLOCK.

Evidence remains that the parish possessed a clock at an early period, William Durbridge, the village blacksmith, was charged with the care of it, and received the half-yearly wage of 6s. 8d. The first entry of this occurs in 1611; whether the clock was part of Sir William Spencer's gift when he built the tower does not appear.

1611. 'Pd. Durbridge for his wage for the clock due at our Lady Day, 6s. 8d.' 'Do. to Will. Durbridge for keeping the clock and ringing the bell.' 'Do. for making a new spring to the Clock, 15d.'

Thirty years later the old clock was exchanged for a new one.

1641. 'Paid for the Clock besides the old Clock, £5 18s. 0d.' 'To Francis Mall for seven daies' work about the clock and clock house, 6s.' 'For a pair of hinges for the clock house door, 8d.'

1648. 'To Thomas Rankling for mending the clock, 15s.'

1658. 'Paid to Widow Rankling for do., £1 11s. 0d.' 'For carrying the clock to mending, 1s.'

1651. 'A pound of wire for the clock, 1s. 4d. The smith and his boy for coming over to mend it, 3s. 8d.' 'For mending him again when the Rogue pulled him in peeces, 1s.' 'For carrying the wheelles on my back to Oxford three times to mend, 1s.'

1665-6. 'For mending, taking down the hand and setting it up again.' 'Pd. Mr. Weller for mending the Clock and the hand, £1 0s. 0d.'

1680. 'Pd. Mike Deen for clensing of the clock, 1s.' 'Pd. for mending the thing that winds up the clock, 1s. 2d.'

1681. 'Spent with the clock maker for taking down the hand, 1s.' 'For a horse to carry the clock to Fretwell, 2s.' 'For a man to goe with the clock, 1s.'

1682. 'Pd. Mr. Harris of Fretwell for mending the clock, £1 10s. 0d.' 'Pd. to Duglas for the Diall board and other work, 9s.' 'For their charges at the "Six Bells" and others to helpe them put up the Diall, 9s. 10d.' 'Paid the smith for the hookes and staples, 1s. 6d.' 'Paid Matthews for painting the Diall and 6d. spent with him, £1 10s. 0d.' 'Paid the Witney clock maker the last time coming over and expenses, 2s.' 'To the Oxford clock maker and the painter Hamilton coming and expenses, 3s.'

1685-6. 'Pd. for making clean the clock, 2s. 6d.' 'Pd. to Will. Coasin for mending the Pendulum, 1s.'

1699. 'Paid to Robart Sivers for mending the windliss of the clock, 6d.'

1703. 'Pd. Mr. Nibb for mending the clock, 13s.'

1716. 'For a new hand, £1 16s. 0d.'

1730. 'Pd. Mr. Aress of Kidlington for mending the clock and the Tenner Clapper, 8s.'

The clock and the bells appear to have been a heavy charge upon the parish for repairs. No doubt the village blacksmith's was very unskilled labour, and damaged as much as he mended.

An old church clock of iron, dated 1695, and made apparently by the village blacksmith, was taken out of the church at Lower Heyford at the restoration of that church about 1867-8. It was driven by heavy stone weights¹. It seems very probable that the church of Yarnton possessed a clock before the present tower was built, from the dates in the account book.

¹ Wing's Annals, Bicester Poor Law Union, part 2.

THE CHURCH PLATE, &c.

The Church plate and other articles kept in the chest or coffer with three locks, were very carefully enumerated in the churchwardens' book each year, and given over to the charge of the churchwardens for the time being. This custom extended from the year 1610 until 1660, after which only one entry occurs. Some of the articles catalogued seem rather incongruous to us.

The list begins with the purchase of a pewter flagon.

1610. '10th March. Pd. for a Ewer for to fill wine into the Com Cupp and for a plate for the bread, 3s. 11d.'

1611. 'Delivered by ffrancis Parette unto Samuel Criche. Item, Imprimis a communion Cupp and cyver of silver; Item, a surplisse; Item, a Pulpit cloth; Item, a Table cloth of lynn; Item, an Ewer of Pewter¹; Item, an Iron barre; Item, a doggehook². Item, an Anvill with Rinald' (a man's name).

1616. 'The Implements a Communion cup of silver with the rest of the Implements Delivered unto Steven Townsend the last yeare remain in S. T.'s hand still.'

1619. 'Received for the old Communion table, 3s. 8d.'

'Pd. for a Pall to cover the Dead and the makinge, 11s. 8d.'

'Pd. for a chest with three lockes, 12s. 9d.'

1620. 'Delivered to Anthony Cross and Edward Galloway, C. W.'s. Imp., a communion table and cloth and carpet; Item, a pall of black cloth; Item, a silver cup with a cover of the same; Item, a pewter Ewer and a saucer of pewter; Item, a pulpit cloth; Item, an iron barre and dog-hooke.'

1629. 'Steven Townsend to be church Warden and Mr. Leigh with

¹ The following from the *Derbyshire Arch. Soc. Journal*, 1884, vol. 6, will explain the introduction of the flagon:—

'The great increase in the size of the crewets used at Holy Communion necessitated at the Reformation by the restoration of the cup to the laity gave a great impetus to the general use of pewter for these vessels, and hence the use of that metal in poor despoiled churches denuded even to the chalice and paten. The pewter crewets of the 15th and 16th centuries which had sufficed for the ordinary parish church, being enlarged to meet the needs of the age became what we now term flagons. They were usually in pairs and were intended to be used for the wine and

water respectively, for which the ancient crewets or phials had been provided. The earliest flagons are of Elizabeth's time. They have a pear-shaped body, domed lid with thumb-piece, curved handle, and are mounted on a spreading circular foot.'

² A 'doghook' was a heavy iron hook and chains used for dragging timber. Some light may be thrown upon the use of the 'doghook' by the following. In the list of church goods at Tetbury in 1622 occurs 'towne crookes with chaines fastened upon poules.' Can this be the Town Bar? An iron bar was used in village sports for trying the strength of the young men who threw it. Can this be the item mentioned?

him. The things belonging to the Church to be with the C. W.'s except the doghooke.'

'Pd. for the new coṁ cup more than the old one came to, £3 16s. 2d.'

1630. 'Pd. for the coṁ table and for the frame, 11s. Pd. for fetching it from Oxford, 12d. Pd. for three yards and a quarter of skey collar broad cloth at 11s. the yarde, £1 15s. 0d.; Item for four ounces 3 qrs. of silk ffringe at 2s. and 8d. the oz., 12s. 8d.; Item for half a yarde of fringe more, 7d.; Item payde to the Tayler for makinge the Carpet for the Coṁ Table, 12d.'

1632. 'Paid to Mr. Right of Oxford for a coṁ plate' (torn off).

1636. 'At the Delivery of the accounts these ornaments hereunder named were delivered to the new chosen C. W. Imp., a fair silver fflagon given now lately by Richard Brainthwaite, Esq., to this church for the use of the Communicants of this parish at the Coṁ. Item, a silver challice and cover of the same; Item, a silver plate; Item, a coṁ table carpett, a diaper cloth, a plaine linnen table cloth; a pall for the buriall of the Dead; a pulpitt cloth; a pewter Ewer and pewter saucer; besides an iron barre and a doghooke; two pair of surplisses.'

1638. 'For the engraving Mr. Brainthwaite's arms on our coṁ flaggon, 6s.'

The same list appears increased by

1653. 'Item, the church porch door.'

1655. 'Mem. that the Church Plate as it is recorded aṅ 1653 was delivered up into the hands of Mr. Pudsie with the linnen and Pall. And Edward Maple acknowledged he had the Town Bar.' (Signed J. Goad, V.)

The same list in Mr. Pudsey's hands—

1656. 'The iron barr delivered to Mr. Pudsey with staple and hook and three lockes, the blue carpet in custody of the Vicar.'

1659. 'Church plate, viz. the Flagon, the challice, and the silver plate were delivered into the hands of Mr. Leigh with the Pall and Diaper. The Barr is also in Mr. Leigh's custody; three locks, staple and hook with the Vicar; blue carpet at the Church.'

1660. 'Church Plate delivered to Robert Phipps, the Barr is in Mr. Leigh's custody; the locks, staple and hook with the Vicar. Blue carpet for the coṁ table was lost out of the Church.'

1661. 'The church plate ex., as the fflagon, Bole, Challice, Plate, table cloth, black cloth, iron barre are in the hands of Steven ffourtrey ¹.' (The last entry.)

1684. 'A new Basket for the Plate.'

1706. 'A new dore for the Chancel, 6s. 5d.'

1708. 'Paid for a new cloth for the coṁ Table, 13s. 6d.'

¹ A note in Dr. Thomas' handwriting appears in the C. W.s' book here, 'The list of plate in 1636 is a correct enumeration of what the Parish now

possesses (1818) with the addition of Mr. Fletcher's salver' (signed, V. Thomas).

Notes relating to THE ADMINISTERING THE SACRAMENT and providing the bread and wine :—

By the Canon of 1603-4 the churchwardens of each parish against the time of every communion

‘shall provide sufficient quantity of good wholesome wine for the number of Communicants that shall from time to time receive there ; which wine we require to be brought to the Communion Table in a clean and sweet standing pot or stoup of pewter if not of purer metal.’

This order seems to have been carefully carried out as follows :—

‘Bread and wine at Christmas, $6\frac{1}{4}d.$ Do. againste Pame Sunday, $2s. 1d.$ ’

‘Do. for Ester Eve and Ester Day, $3s. 2d.$ Do. Whitsuntide, $12d.$ ’

‘thelimentide, $19d.$ (St. Bartholomew’s). Do. Micalmas, $2s. 8d.$ ’

‘Whitsunday, $15\frac{1}{2}d.$ Do. the next Sunday, $14\frac{1}{2}d.$ ’

1610. ‘Bread and wine for the Co^m on Palm Sunday beinge the 17 March, $19d.$ ’

‘Do. on Easter Day beinge the 24th March, $2s. 7d.$ ’

‘Do. on Lowe Sunday beinge the last of March, $7d.$ ’

1631. ‘For bread-and wine for Mrs. Claxton, $7d.$ ’

1636. ‘For bread and wine for old Sparkes his household for a co^m there, $6d.$ ’

1642. ‘Received of the gentlemen at the Manor House for their receiving at Christmas, $4s.$ ’

1644. ‘For two quarts of wine and a penny loafe the 24th November at $18d.$ a quarte, $3s. 1d.$ Do. againste Christmas at $20d.$ a quarte, $3s. 5d.$ ’

‘For Palme Sundaye 5 pints of wine, $4s.$ ’

1645. ‘For three pints of sacke and a lofe of bread for the Sunday after All Saints’ Daye at $22d.$ a quarte, $2s. 4d.$ ’

‘For three pints of claret wine and a lofe of bread againste Christ Day, $1s. 10d.$ ’

1646. ‘For the Co^m the Sunday after Michaelmas Day, for 3 pints of sack, $2s.$, of claret 1 quart, $1s.$, lofe of bread, $1d.$ ’

1647. ‘Laide out for bread and wine both on Palme Sunday and Easter Day over and above what was contributed by a collection to that purpose, —which collection, as may be seene, came to $7s. 4d.$ — $3s. 6d.$ ’

1649. ‘For bread and wine at Midsu^mer, $1s. 5d.$ ’

1674. ‘Sep. 29. Paid for bread and wine when Sir Thomas received the Sacrament, $2s. 5d.$ ’

BURIALS IN THE CHURCH.

Although interments have been numerous in the church, we should know nothing of them except from the old parish account book. Everything in the way of monuments has disappeared, and the few slabs in the pavement are worn and obliterated. The fee for burial

in the church was 3*s.* 4*d.*¹, which seems to have been the general charge at that time for a grave. The charge made for a grave is an index to the worldly condition of the person, and varied with his fortune. The greater number of burials were from the families of the churchwardens, and are of no further interest. A few entries referring to strangers may be interesting, showing the connection between this place and families from the neighbourhood.

1619. 'Received of John Owen for a burial of a child in the church, 3*s.* 4*d.*'

1624. 'Received the gift of John Owen to the church, £2.'

'Paid for putting up John Owen's name in the church, 1*s.* 8*d.*'

There appears to have been some difficulty in getting this money, for

1624. 'Pd. for fetching John Owen's money at several times, 1*s.*'

We have no further information about this family, or whether they were part of the family of Owen of Godstow, who once owned this manor.

The next refers to people from Kidlington:—

1628. 'Received of Mr. Will. Gadbury for burying his cousin Aldridge in the church.'

'Received of Howse of Water Eaton for burying Mr. William Gadbury in the church.'

1629. 'Received of Mr. Clarkson, Executor to Mr. Thomas Aldridge, which he gave to the church, £10.'

'Received of Mr. Benet Aldridge, Executor to Mr. Will. Gadbury, which he gave to the church . . . (torn out).'

One of the poor fellows who fell fighting near here was buried.

1643. 'Received for the burial of Edward Fowler in the church, 6*s.* 8*d.*'

From the Registry we learn that he was an Ensign in Colonel Bolle's regiment.

An infant which had been sent here to nurse died. Probably belonging to the Shipton family.

1653. Jan. 'For laying down Mr. Standard's child's grave, 1*s.*'

From the Register we learn,

1643, Oct. 28. 'The daughter of Mr. Rob. Standard, nurse child to M. P. was buried.'

¹ The scale for 'Mortuaries,' that is fees for burials, was arranged upon a sliding scale. No person who was not a householder was bound to pay the fees. A person worth 10 marks paid 3*s.* 4*d.*

If worth £30 in moveable goods 6*s.* 8*d.*
 „ £40 „ „ 10*s.* 0*d.*
 This scale is thus fixed in the old Register of Souldern.

1658. 'Received of Mistr. Pudsey for burying her kinswoman, 4s. 4d.'

George Pudsey was churchwarden, probably the lawyer from Oxford who was acting for the Spencers. The Pudseys came from Elsfield.

Another name we learn from Rawlinson.

'In hopes of a joyfull resurection Here resteth the body of Thos. Hellat, Gent., who died June 16, 1714, aged 44¹.'

Yarnton's latest friend and benefactor, Alderman William Fletcher, lies at the west end of the church, under an altar-shaped monument, with the words upon it:—

'Yarnton my childhood's home do thou receive
My parting gift—my dust to thee I give.'

Mr. Fletcher had been sent to Yarnton as a child to be nursed by the wife of the parish clerk. He became Mayor of Oxford three times, and never forgot his early home. The figure engraved upon brass upon the tomb was done at his desire, an attempt to revive a forgotten art. Alderman Fletcher was a great collector of antiquities, especially of stained glass. Besides his gifts to the church of Yarnton, he presented two large windows to the picture gallery in Oxford. He died in his house in Oxford opposite to the Museum (Ashmolean), Oct. 27, 1827².

A portrait of the Alderman, by Dighton, may be seen in the Hope Collection; also in Dr. Symond's MSS., vol. 9, inscribed:—

'The Father of the Corporation "Omnibus Carus."'

His bust is in the Picture Gallery at the Bodleian. He appears to have been buried in an ancient stone coffin, presented to him by Lord Abingdon, which had been dug up upon the site of the Conventual Church at Godstow.

'Fletcher had it enclosed in a brick grave near the north door of the church at Yarnton, covered with a black marble³.'

TABLE OF BENEFACCTIONS IN THE CHURCH.

1611. The first Sir Thos. Spencer built the tower, the great aisle, and gave a peal of bells.

¹ Rawl. 379, Hutton's, col. B. 400. C.
This name appears in pp. 259 and 261.

² Dr. V. Thomas.

³ Dr. Symonds' MSS., vol. 4, p. 268.

1634. The second Sir William Spencer erected the screens at the entrance of the aisle and belfry, pulpit and reading desk.

1684. Rent charge of £10 upon Windmill Field.

1793. Alderman Fletcher new paved and pewed the church, and painted it.

1801. He gave a silver salver.

1813. He gave the windows of painted glass and the door of the south porch.

1817. Erected a school-house, &c.

The following was summoned before the Bishop's Court for working upon a Saint's day:—

1621. 13th June. 'John Even of Erdington called . . . that his servant did thresh on St. Marks daie last in the morninge but unknowne to this examinant that it was a hollidaie untill it was told him by one of his servants and uppon present knowledge he discharged his servant from his said labour . . . and further that uppon urgent occasion his maide servant did winnowe a little wheate on Candlemas daie but for the provisioning of his house and uppon noe other occasion¹.'

He was dismissed with an admonition.

ACCOMMODATION IN THE CHURCH.

From a Terrier in the Diocesan Registry signed by V. Thomas, 1855, the following is transcribed:—

' . . . Without doubt the church held many more before than since it has been repewed.'

' I recently added to the length of the Labourers' open seats and provided sittings for the school children. The present sittings may be calculated and returned thus—There are 410 measured feet of benches in and out of the Pews and according to the rule of 20 inches for an adult and 18 for a child there will be 215 sittings for adults and 34 for children: total 249—without reckoning 14 sittings in the chancel and perhaps 36 in the Spencer aisle.'

THE CHURCHYARD.

' I enclosed a little nook off the waste just at the entrance gate near the Vicarage wall, it may be 12 or 14 feet long by 4 or 5 feet at the broadest part. It is not consecrated and there have been no burials in it, there is abundance of room without it.' 'The churchyard is ancient.' V. T.

¹ Court Book of Bishop of Oxford. Extracts, Turner's MSS. Top. Oxon, c. 56. Colls. of Oxon, xv.

Since then the Churchyard has been extended, and the new part consecrated.

THE SCHOOL.

The first mention of a school at Yarnton is that kept in the vicarage house by the Vicars, Hugh Evans and Nath. Harris, in the reign of Charles I. A Sunday school was established, to which the Overseers paid 18s. a year from the year 1797. Alderman Fletcher, as part of his benefactions towards the parish school, gave a small residue of a sum of money left for the repairs of the Clerk's house. The school was first established as a Dame school at the Clerk's house until the year 1817, when Mr. Fletcher built the existing house for the Clerk. He refused to build a separate school house, but agreed that the ground floor room in that house should be used as a school with the consent of the Clerk, and paying him £2 per annum out of Fletcher's fund. The house cost him £500 in building. The Clerk's wife being the schoolmistress the arrangement worked well.

Hymns sung by the school children of Yarnton before and after dinner. (Dr. Thomas.)

BEFORE DINNER.

'Father of Heaven! God of love!
O send Thy blessing from above
Upon whate'er we have to eat,
And on our lips as well as meat.
Make us to bless and praise Thee, Lord,
For the sweet manna of Thy Word,
The meat and drink Thy Gospel gives,
To feed our souls, and form our lives.
For strength of faith, for health of grace,
To run with joy our mortal race;
Then die in peace, and with the blest
Find Christ our Comfort, Ransom, Rest.'

AFTER DINNER.

'For the food we have received,
For strength, and health, and wants relieved,
We thank our God with one accord,
Through Jesus Christ, His Son, our Lord.'

CHAPTER IV.

CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS.

PROCESSIONINGS AND PERAMBULATIONS.

1230. 'UPON a grant of the Bishop of Lincoln, for observing of processions and other solemnities, to Ensham Church, in obedience to the Mother Church of Lincoln, during Whitsun Week, many of the Oxford scholars, repairing thither to see jovial doings, were assaulted by the country people, who killed some and wounded others, and made the rest fly home in fear and danger of their lives. The bishop hearing it, excommunicated the authors and abettors of this sedition, in all the churches of Oxfordshire, excluding them the society of all Christians, and depriving them of the benefit of confession till the feast of St. Bartholomew; the scholars also resented this injury so highly that they intermitted all lectures, and would not resume them till the offenders had undergone the severest punishments; and when they did, the bishop procured of the Pope a permission for the doctors and masters of Oxford to become lecturers and regents in any other University without any examination¹.'

Such is the notice we find of the beginning of these Whitsuntide processionings as far as our diocese of Lincoln is concerned, and it may account for the existence of the two beautiful crosses, at Yarnton and at Ensham, which within recent years were connected by others in and about Cassington.

These processions at the end of the Vernal Quarter were general throughout Christendom, and were instituted by the Church in very early times as a means of calling down the blessing of Heaven upon the earth and upon those preparing for Ordination. In some cases they may possibly be the continuation in a Christian manner, of ancient pagan rites consecrating this period of the year.

The clergy and their people set out from the church door at Ensham with processional cross and Holy Water Vat, and sang the

¹ Cox, *Magna Britta*, vol. 4, p. 380. Gough's *Gen. Top.*, 206. Cox gives no authority for his statement.

Litanies along their way. The place 'Vocat Alleluiah,' in the Parish of Yarnton, is most likely the site of one of the stations along the road, perhaps also 'Paternoster' farm.

The two crosses still standing are almost identical in design—a beautifully executed four-sided shaft with sculptured images and canopies on either face. The four figures round the base of the cross are four knights kneeling upon the left knee; the figures above are an ecclesiastic in a cope, and three standing figures in monastic garments. They stand under foliated canopies.

Such crosses were frequent in those days of faith (though the rough usage described above says little for the practice) when men were not ashamed outwardly to praise God and beg his blessing upon their crops. The road from Woodstock to Godstow, along which Fair Rosamund was carried for burial, was marked out by such crosses and in the same religious manner the gallant Edward marked the last progress of his beloved Consort. Closer to home we may still see the cross at Thrup, and the names of many others are still familiar.

Set up at a market place the Cross recalled men to fair dealing, and at the wayside it reminded them of the last end of their earthly pilgrimage.

After religious observance was changed, outward form gradually dwindled away, and the remnant that remained was shorn of all its inward significance and the Rogation Processions became simply a village 'gaudy,' and a convenient occasion for impressing the parish boundaries upon the lookers on.

Each year the churchwardens recorded their expenses upon this day, but they tell us nothing beyond the usual meagre details of the sale and purchase of beer and cake, and bread and cheese; if we would know more of the amusement of the day we must study the history of the Lady of the Lamb at Kidlington and Ensham, no doubt the same plan of rejoicing would equally apply to all these villages.

The following are from the C. W.s' book:—

1610. 24 May. 'Paid for bread and beere at the tyme of goinge in Procession, 16*d*.'

1612. 'Paid Forty for the processioninge, 22*d*. For bread and beare at the Procession, 2*s*.'

1620. 'Received for the Whitsonale, 11*s*. 4*d*.'

1620. April 3. 'Cakes and bread for the Perambulation, 2*s*. 5*d*.'

1636. 'For p vizions at the Procession, 6*s*.'

1641. 'Paid J. Saunders for 12 bushels of malt for Whitsuntide. 1*d.* over 8 groats and 2*d.* per bushel.'

1682. 'For bread and cakes, 7*s.*; 5 bushels of malt, 15*s.*; 4 cheeses, 4*s.*'

During the Puritan times the processions like every other form of amusement appear to have ceased, but began again after the Restoration. The May Pole was set up once more in 1663.

The cost of these Perambulations, which only seem to have been held every second or third year, steadily increased until 1722, when it amounted to £1. 8*s.* 0*d.* with 1*s.* for the clerk.

SMOKE FARTHINGS OR WHITSUN FARTHINGS.

Under the above name we recognise the offerings of the Faithful at the yearly Whitsuntide meetings, which were called by the name of Pentecostals, Whitsun or Smoke Farthings; showing by the latter term that they were collected from each hearth. The custom arose from the ancient oblations *freely* offered by the people when they made their yearly procession, and which in course of time were commuted for an annual rent ¹. The offerings were divided into four parts, viz. one for the priest, one for the poor, one towards the repair of the church, and the fourth to the Bishop. We say *freely* offered, for in treating of Yarnton it must not be forgotten that this church, as a member of Ensham, was free from all dues except 'Peter Pence,' and as the property of the Cistercians was also exempt from any other liability.

Of these Whitsuntide Farthings we have no account in Yarnton, but to another tax arising from a different source and known also as Smoke Farthings we now turn:—

'Focage, Hearth or Smoke Money' dates in England from the wars of the Plantagenet Kings in France; Edward the Black Prince imposed it upon the conquered province of Aquitaine. Chimney money was again imposed by statute in Charles II's reign ², but abolished in 1 Will. and Mary, being looked upon as a remnant of slavery, probably on account of the breach of privacy it entailed in its collection, and the window tax was imposed instead.

However, we find 'Smoke Farthings' again levied in 1702, con-

¹ In the year 1444 Bishop Alnwick of Lincoln in ordering the collection of this money calls it 'Lincoln Farthings.' Cowell's Law Dictionary, under Pentecostals, Fuage, or Focage, also Jordan's History of Enstone.

² Chimney money is mentioned in Wood's Life and Times, Clark, 1891, vol. 1, pp. 431-433. '166 $\frac{1}{2}$, 18th February. Parliament, and in that session was the additional revenue of chimney money added to the King.'

sequent, probably, to a short Act passed that year, 'for making good the public credit,' and which revived several obsolete impositions. The tax was levied twice in the year, at Lady Day and Michaelmas; but in Yarnton we only find it collected every third or fourth year, perhaps owing to the small size of the parish.

The entries begin in the old account book in :—

1611.	Paid to Mr. Street ¹ for Smokefarthings.	18d.
1613.	Paid to Mr. Street do.	18d.
1617.	Paid to Mr. Street, Gent., collector for 4 years at 13d. per annum, due to the King's majesty to Michaelmas, 1616.	4s. 4d.
1620.	Mr. Street two years last past ending Michaelmas, 1619	2s. 2d.
1624.	Mr. Biggar for smokefarthings	2s. 2d.
1632.	Paid for smokefarthings	9s. 9d.
1635.	Paid do. for 4 years 3s., for acquittance of it, 4d.	3s. 4d.
1638.	Paid to Isaac Biggar for smokefarthings for this year	1s. 0d.
1640.	Smokefarthings for two years	2s. 2d.
1669 ² .	Spent upon Mr. Twicross when he came to demand the smokefarthings, 8d. Paid for do. for 'straining and acquittance	2s. 4d.
1673.	Smokefarthings	5s. 9d.
1688.	Paid Mr. Hensley for eleven years do.	11s. 7½d.
	Nine years acquittance of do.	3s. 0d.
1695.	Paid the rent called Smokefarthings	9s. 6d.
1699.	Paid do. for four years	5s. 2d.
1702.	For money called Smokefarthings	9s. 6d.
	An acquittance	4d.

BOOKS AND PAPERS PURCHASED BY THE PARISH.

The following extracts from the churchwardens' account book speak for themselves. Many of them are of public interest.

1610. 'Paid for the Canons and . . . Articles: and a Brief for the church, 18d.'

1626. 'Paid to the Ordinary for a day to provide Bishop Jewell's works and Erasmus' parafrase, 3s. 6d³.'

'For a book of prayers againste our enemies, 2s. 8d.'

'For a great book for the church called "Mason's Apology," 7s.'

¹ The Mr. Street mentioned as collector was probably the same who lived at Kidlington. In Yarnton Reg. we have '1657, Richard son of Edward Street baptised.'

² This is the first demand after the revival by Ch. II, and seems to have been met with surprise. The collections

in 1695 and 1699 do not correspond with the statement that the tax was abolished in 1688.

³ The Paraphrase of Erasmus upon the Gospels, with Bishop Jewell's works, appear to have been ordered in every parish. At Tetbury the same entry occurs in 1593.

About this time (1627) prayers were ordered by Parliament to be used 'so long as his Majesty's navy and forces are abroad.' (State Papers.)

England was then at war with Spain, and the Protestants of the Palatinate were suffering persecution.

1628. 'Paid for a book of Instructions from the King to the bishoppes concerning the preeching of the Ministers.'

'For a book of Articles, 12*d.*' 'To the Aparitor for bringing the book, 6*d.*'

1629. 'A prayer for the Queen's Delivery, 4*d.*, and to him that brought it from the Lord Bishoppe, 4*d.*'

This was upon the occasion of the birth of Charles, Prince of Wales, who was born in May, 1630, and baptised by Archbishop Laud.

1631. 'Given to him that brought the prayer for the Queen's Delivery, 6*d.*'

Princess Mary, born 4th November, mother to William of Orange.

1636. 'For two books for the Fast for the Plague, 2*s.*'

This year, on account of the great spread of the Plague, orders in Council were issued forbidding the annual fairs to be held. See State Papers, 2nd June.

1653. 'The new Act for Registering—For a Register Book, 2*s.* 4*d.*'

Probably for the Act ordering marriages to be performed by Justices of the Peace¹.

1673-8. 'For a book for the Fast and the Proclamation, 1*s.* 2*d.*'

'24th April, 1678, a fast at Oxford and elsewhere for a prosperous proceeding in war against the French.' (Bliss' Life of Wood, p. 202.)

1687. 'A book of Thanksgiving for the Queen, 1*s.* 6*d.*'

Upon the birth of the Prince of Wales, afterwards styled the 'Pretender.'

1688. 'Two books of Thanksgiving—one for the 14th Feby., 2*s.* 6*d.*'

William of Orange, landed 4th November, and called to the Throne by both Houses of Parliament on 13th February, 1688, O. S.

1694. 'For a book and Proclamation for a Thanksgiving for the King's safe return from the wars, 2*s.*' William III.

1703. 'For a form of prayer concerning the Wind, 6*d.*' 'For a book and Proclamation concerning the Wind, 1*s.* 6*d.*'

(See Church Windows, *supra.*)

1704. 'Proclamation of the Fast being April 4th.'

Probably relating to the state of the war previous to the battle of Blenheim.

¹ Only one marriage is entered in the old Parish Register during the following thirteen years.

1708. 'For two prayers for the Queen on the 8th March.'

This was during Queen Anne's early widowhood, when the Protestant succession was a matter of public concern.

1727. 'For a paper to alter the prayers, 1s.'

Accession of George II.

1737. 'A warrant to pray for the Princess of Wales, 1s.'

Princess Augusta of Saxe Gotha, mother of George III, on her marriage.

From Index Villarum. Adams, 1680:—

'Yarnton House, Oxford, Wotton, Deanery Woodstock, Vicarage Residence of a Baronet.

Latitude, 51'49" North.

Longitude, 1'14" West.

Rates, £05 05s. 04d.'

BRIEFS AND LETTERS OF REQUEST.

Briefs were the means by which public and private misfortune was met by the charity of the people, they were authorised either by the King or by the Bishop, and collections accordingly were made in the church. The repair or the erection of churches was frequently done by this means and losses by fire or sea are a constantly recurring subject for charity. The number of Irish people asking relief is very remarkable, and the travelling poor were sent from place to place with 'a pass' from some magistrate or with a 'letter of request.' The following extracts from the churchwardens' book are the most interesting:—

1610. The book opens with a petition for four fires.

1612. 'Paid for a Brief for the repairing of St. Alban's church, 18d.' This year King James I personally examined this church during his progress north and granted this brief for England and Wales; about £2000 was collected. Further collections were made in 1681.

1617. Briefs from Wokingham, Church Hampton, Winsloe, Roydene, Bradfield in Berkshire.

1618. Briefs from Reading, Newberie, Colan in Devon, Faringdon, London, Kingsey, Northampton, the Sea, Newmarket, Yermuth, Tring.

1619. Brief from Virginie, 3s.; Leicester; the poor Inhabitants of St. Bartholomew's parish; Wotten; one who was in prison in Turke; Hautboys, Norfolk; Malton; Bridport; Bristol; St. Katherine's; Walingford; St. Dunstan's; Clerkwel; Cotham, Nottinghamshire.

1620. Briefs from Maidenhead; Cobborne in the Countie of White (Isle of Wight); for Henry Hughes, gent., who was taken prisoner the last

year of our gracious queene Elizabeth by the Spaniards, towards his ransome 6*d.*, and again 5*d.*; towards the repair of Greenwich Church; for Thomas Hatcastle of Kingstone upon Hull; Deddington; Wighton, co. York; David Browne of Wappinge in Middlesex; Cambridge; Mr. Whytney, taken by the Turks at Argiers.

1624. 'Paid to the Brief that went to Dr. Standard, Kidlington, 2*s.* 8*d.*'

'To a poor Irishman at the church, 3*d.*'

1625. Briefs from Rochester; York; Switzerland, 6*d.*; Maydstone; Prior's Limenton; Aston Cantlow, Warwickshire.

1626. Briefs from Rothwell, Northants; Cotsford, Oxon; Warwik; Fire at Cropredy; to a Minister's wife at Stoke Nayland in Suffolk; Fire at Kirk Ireton in Derbyshire; for the relief of the christians at Argiers; a poor man from Halifax.

1627. 'To a woman for ransoming her husband from the Turks, 6*d.*; to the Protestants among the Grisons, 1*s.*'

1628. Briefs from Lamport, Northants; Chalfont St. Peter in Bucks; Atherton in Ireland, twice over; Warter in Yorkshire; a poor man from Delwyn (Delvine) in Ireland; for the distressed Ministers of the Palatinate, 3*s.* 6*d.*; for the repair of the church of Ensford in Kent, 2*s.*; for the repair of the church of South Maling in Sussex, 2*s.* (South Maling is a portion of Lewes; the church was built about this time, and its Register begins 1629); Brief for loss by fire being £4000 at Great Holkam in Norfolk, 3*s.* 4*d.*; Brief from Portsmouth, 10*s.* 3*d.*; a company of poor people, 8*d.*; Parish church of Aldershot in countie of Southampton; Church of Essendon, Harford, repairing (the tower of this church was rebuilt in 1628); Teale in Surrey; Cork in Ireland; a poor woman who had loss by fire at Harper in Yorkshire (possibly Harpham in E. Riding).

1629. To a man who was robbed by the Dunkerkers, twice over; for the decayed Ministers of the Palatinate country; fire at Wedon-in-the-Streat; to several Irishmen.

1630. Brief to a Nobleman in Greece, 18*d.*; a poor traveller who had the King's evil, 8*d.*

1631. To Henri Lion, a Dutchman, who was taken by the Dunkerkers; to the men who had £600 loss by the Dunkerkers, 6*d.*; to Irishmen who had loss by the Dunkerkers¹. To Irishmen that had £3000 losse, 6*d.*; to Irish people, 8*d.*; to Irish gentlemen, 7*d.*; a brief from Painswick church, 2*s.*²

¹ Piracy by the Dunkirkers was a frequent source of complaint at this time, a glance at the history of this unfortunate town will explain why the inhabitants had no respect for law or nationality. Until the year 1558 Dunkirk was held by the English; the English were then expelled by the French, who the following year gave up the town to the Spaniards. In 1646 it once more became French, and after

a few years it reverted to the Spaniards. In 1658 the united forces of France and England recaptured Dunkirk, and owing to the clever policy of Oliver Cromwell it was put into the hands of the English. After the Restoration Charles II, being in money difficulties, sold the place to Louis XIV for £500,000, and the French King fortified it.

² There is no account at Painswick in Gloucestershire of this restoration,

1632. To a license towards redeeming poor English Captives under the King of Morocco.

1635. To the woman which left the child behind her, 5*s*.

To five Irish gentlemen, twice over, 1*s*. 6*d*.; to two Scottish gentlemen, twice over, 1*s*. 4*d*.

1636. To a poor Pedlar that had license to gather, he being robbed of his packe, 4*d*.; to an Irish woman towards redeeming her son from the Turkes; to a brief for fire from the towne and county of Poole in Hampshire; to an Irish woman whose husband had £1500 loss at sea, 6*d*.; for fire at Holton in our own countie, 1*s*. 4*d*.; to two Irish gentlemen and a Scotchman; to two gentlemen soldiers; three do.; Brief for fire at Yaxley in Huntingdon, £400¹; Brief for repairing a harbour in Ireland, being £5000; Brief for fire at St. Neotts in Huntingdonshire, 10*d*.; from Broughton in Southamptonsire, £7000, 2*s*. 4*d*. (the register here dates from 1665); for Fulmer in Cambridgeshire; Stoke in Beds.

1636. South Clifton in Northants, fire, £1600 loss; for Witney steeple, 2*s*.; for Bramford End in Middlesex (probably Brentford).

1637. Brief for repairing Bradwell Steeple.

1638. To the Kidlington brief for fire, 7*d*.; do. Hampton Poyle, 6*d*. (we have no other notice of this fire which may probably account for the disappearance of the houses between the two villages).

1639. Brief for repairing the church of Witchcombe in Devon, the loss being £900 (perhaps Withcombe); do. for West Thurrock in Essex, the cost being £1300; Fire at Caversham in our own countie, 1*s*.

1640. Breefe for Queen's Cammel for fire, in Somerset, the loss being £5000; from Cernabbies, co. Dorset; Burton, Wilts. (probably Burcomb; Landernocke, co. Denbigh; Coxstone in Kent.

1641. Given to the Gretians brief, 1*s*. 4*d*.²; given to a poor Parson who was undone by the Scots in the north, 6*d*.; given to an Irishman that had lamentable great loss by fire, as is known to Mr. Harris the Vicar, 1*s*.; given to another man which had £500 loss by the Rebels in Ireland, 6*d*.

1641. Given to the Stratford brief which lost £20,000 by fire, 3*s*. 4*d*. (This is probably Stratford-on-Avon, as that town was burnt in James I's time.)

1641. Given to a breefe for building of a church at Barwick, 1*s*. 2*d*. (This church, Berwick-on-Tweed, was begun in 1648 and finished in 1652.)

1642. Gave to the petition for the Fire at Marson (Marston), do. at Heddington in Oxon, loss £180, 1*s*. 8*d*.; to two Merchants' wives from Ireland, 1*s*.

1653. Several briefs for Irish people; an Irishwoman's brief, the loss

but upon the north wall of the church inside is the date 1632. The spire was built at this time.

¹ Some ancient registers are said to have been burnt at Yaxley in 1735. This is, perhaps, an error in the printed

book, as a fire occurred here a hundred years earlier.

² At Deerhurst in Gloucestershire in 1611 occurs 'Collection for Gressyans that the Turks took prysnners.'

being £4000; to Mary Forbes from the Isle of Jersey, loss being £150; two Merchants' wives from Zealand.

1654. A poor minister turned out of £600 a year, 2s.

1655. Mr. Fleetwood and his wife who had a loss by fire of the value of £150, 1s.

To two distressed ministers at several times, 1s.

1656. For sending a maimed soldier to Wolvercote, 1s.

In the Register occurs the following :—

‘Collected for the restoration of Marlow Bridge, in co. Bucks, as it was appointed to be registered, 1j. iv. May 2d, 1558.’

This date is most probably an error as the entry occurs next to the year 1657. Marlow Bridge was destroyed by the Parliament men under Colonel Brown in 1642, and later on an order in Parliament was issued for its restoration by a county rate.

Also in the Register :—

(Collected for a bridge in the parish of Yarrington for East Hagbourne, Berks, 1s. 9d., 1660.)

(Another for an unknown place, 3s. 4d., 1661.)

These two are put in after the date 1706.

1669. Gave to a traveller that was sent by Sir Thomas with a petition, 1s.

This year and the next there were an immense number of beggars.

1679. Gave to a passenger that came with a certificate in Sir T. Spencer's hand.

1680. Given to two gentlemen that came with a pass made at the Gild Hall in London, 6d.

1684. Given to a Captain and his wife and children that had a letter of request, 4d.

To Sir Will. Blackstone towards the redemption of . . . from the Turks, 3s.

1687. Given to a Parson's son towards redeeming his father from prison, 1s.

1688. Paid towards redeeming a Parson out of prison, 1s.

1691. To 9 Dutchmen that had their shippe fired, 8d.

To two families' loss by lightning and hail, 2s. 6d.

1693. An immense number of letters of request without any particulars.

1694. To Elizabeth Grame of the City of York, 6d.

1694. The Warwick Brief. Upon the 5th September this year a terrible fire occurred at Warwick, which consumed in five hours' time a large portion of the town, and destroyed the nave of St. Mary's Church. The damage was estimated at £120,000. Briefs were issued in all parts of the Kingdom for the relief of the sufferers. This

brief is so far interesting as regards Yarnton as it is the only one of which there are any details existing as to the subscribers and amounts collected. Moreover, it supplies a further list of the inhabitants of the village.

‘List of Inhabitants who contributed to the Warwik Brief, 1694¹:—Mrs. Richards, 6*d.*; Mrs. Jane Marwood, 6*d.*; Mary Brocks, 3*d.*; Alice Hails, 3*d.*; Gerry Claidon, 3*d.*; John Moors, 1*d.*; John Folliet, 6*d.*; Richard Clarke, 6*d.*; John Fawdrey, 2*d.*; Philip Doe, 6*d.*; Nick Aubrey, 6*d.*; Widow Minn, 1*s.* 0*d.*; Abel Evans, 2*d.*; George Bushnell, sen., 1*d.*; Henry Timcocks, 6*d.*; Eliz. Ingram, 2*d.*; Francis Hall, 2*d.*; John Parrett, sen., 2*d.*; Gerry Bushnell, jun., 2*d.*; Edward Murrice, 1*d.*; Mr. Hallat, 6*d.*; John Cox, 6*d.*; Nick Minn, 6*d.*; Philip Franklin, 2*d.*; J. Woolans, 2*d.*; Catherine Porter, 1*d.*; Robert Phipps, 4*d.*; Robert Saunders, 4*d.*; Stephen Young, 2*d.*; Robert Michell, Vicar, 6*d.*—12*s.* 3*d.*’

1681 and 96. Briefs for the French Protestants, thrice, 27*s.* 9*d.*

1682. ‘At the latter end of March and the beginning of this month was a collection in every College and hall and also in every parish in Oxford to afford succour and relief to poor Protestants that were lately come into England upon a persecution in France; people gave liberally.’ Wood’s Life. (Bliss.)

The amount of 27*s.* 9*d.* may be considered liberal for Yarnton.

1707. Gave to one Margery Grimes, being 9 in family, which had a great loss by the French, 1*s.*; given to a man by the King’s order (P. George), 1*s.*

1717. Gave to 28 sailors with a pass, 1*s.*, and do. 36 sailors, 2*s.* 8*d.*; to a Parson’s widow, 1*s.*

1719. Gave to several parcels of soldiers, 1*s.*

1722. To 15 disabled men.

1731. To some distressed soldiers, 2*s.* 6*d.*; to some poor slaves at the church door, 2*s.* 6*d.*²

Before closing this chapter it will be interesting to read what Wood wrote in 1679 upon this subject of the relief of the poor.

‘The contribution throughout England and Wales for the poor arises to £500,000 per an., but before the change of religion there was no such contribution, nor repairing of bridges, nor highways: this is able to maintain an army.’ And again, ‘about the above year £4000 per an. was collected for the poor of St. Giles in the Field, London, but in a year’s time after the plot (Oates’) was discovered and the Papists banished, it fell to £700 this year³.

¹ 24th March, O. S.

Guildhall Library, London.

² The particulars of many of these public briefs are to be found in the

³ Wood’s Life, Bliss, pp. 209 and 210.

PARISH RELIEF IN 1688.

At the Sessions of the Magistrates in various counties, it was ordered that the following somewhat tyrannical enactment should be forced upon all poor persons receiving parish relief. The Overseers were required to see that all such as receive any alms from their respective parishes for the time to come should wear daily and constantly upon their upper garments, in some remarkable place, two large, red, roman letters, one a *P.* to denote Parish relief, and the other the initial of their parish. This upon pain of forfeiting their relief, or of twenty-one days' imprisonment. All such who should give alms to any not wearing such a badge, should be fined 20s.

In the Kidlington register this letter occurs after certain names.

'1791. Richard Lankstone. *P.*'

'1789. Rice Tyrrell. *P.*'

CHURCHWARDENS.

1610	Francis Parrett and Samuel Crutch.
1612	Steven Townsend and Richard Heath.
1616	Steven Townsend and Thomas Mynn.
1619	Steven Townsend and Anthony Cross.
1620	Anthony Cross and Edward Galloway.
1622	Robert Hancock and Edward Galloway.
1623	Robert Hancock and Henry Phipps.
1624-25	Robert Hancock and Stephen Townsend.
1626	Stephen Townsend and Mr. James Stone.
to 1630	Stephen Townsend and Mr. Thos. Leigh.
1631-32	Stephen Townsend and Anthony Crosse.
1633	Anthony Crosse and Nicholas Mynn.
to 1636	Mr. James Stone and Nicholas Mynn.
1637-38	Mr. James Stone and Mr. Thos. Leigh.
1639-40	Mr. James Stone and Stephen Townsend.
1641	Nicholas Mynn and Stephen Fortye.
to 1648-49	Nicholas Reynolds and Stephen Fortye.
1650	Nicholas Reynolds and William Styles.
1651	William Styles and George Townsend.
1652	George Townsend, jun. and Edward Maple.
1653	George Townsend and Mr. Will. Hopkins.
1654	Edward Maple and Robert Mynn.
1655	Robert Mynn and Mr. George Pudsey.
1656	Mr. George Pudsey and Mr. Hugh Hopkins.
1657	William Garrel and Edward Hunt.
1658	Edward Hunt and Mr. Leigh.

- 1659 Mr. George Leigh and Robert Phipps.
 1660 Robert Phipps and George Bushnell.
 1661 Steven Fourtey and Robert Mynn.
 to 1665 Steven Fourtey and Edward Joyner.
 1666 Edward Joyner and John Hayward.
 1667 No account.
 1668 John Saunders and Steven Fortey.
 1669-70 No account to 1676. Mr. Stone.
 1678 Steven Fortey.
 1679 William Hampshire and Peter Kerby.
 1681 Mr. Hampshire.
 1688 Steven Fortey.
 1693 Thomas Hallet and Nicholas Mynn.
 1694 Robert Phipps and Robert Saunders.
 1695 Robert Saunders.
 1696 Nicholas Aubrey and John Foliott.
 1699 Robert Saunders and Nicholas Mynn.
 to 1702-3 Robert Saunders and George Bushnell.
 1704 Abel Ewiens (?) and Richard Clerke.
 1705 Abel Izard and Richard Clerke.
 1706 Robert Phipps and Nicholas Minn.
 1707 Mr. Minn and Robert Sanders.
 1708 George Bushnell and Nicholas Minn.
 to 1711 Mr. Minn and Richard Clerke.
 to 1713 Nicholas Minn and Robert Saunders.
 to 1715 Nicholas Minn and Henry Simcox.
 1716-17 John Weston and John Couling.
 1718 John Weston and George Bushnell.
 1719 John Weston and John Roper.
 1720 John Weston and G. Sanders.
 1721 Richard Rowland and George Sanders.
 1722 Richard Rowland and John Stroud.
 1723 Robert Sanders and John Stroud.
 1724 Nicholas Minn and Robert Sanders.
 1725-26 Nicholas Minn and Thomas Cecil.
 1727 William Savage and Henry Osborn.
 to 1729 John Weston and Joseph Whittaker.
 1730 George Saunders and Mr. John Weston.
 to 1732 Mr. John Weston and Isaac Nixon.
 to 1734 Henry Osborn and Joseph Whittaker.
 to 1737 Henry Osborn and John Box.
 1738 John Osborn and Isaac Nixon.
 to 1740 Isaac Nixon and John Whittaker.

ASSESSMENT OF LAND IN 1615.

This following extract was drawn from the churchwardens' book by Dr. V. Thomas, and is written by him in one of the register books.

'Received of Sir Thomas Spencer for 12 yard-lands	.	.	.	48s.
„ of Samuel Church for 4 yards	.	.	.	16s.
„ of Master Street for 2 yards	.	.	.	8s.
„ of Master Dinglee for 1½ yards	.	.	.	6s.
„ of John Sadler for 2 yards	.	.	.	8s.
„ of Steven Townsend for 2 yards	.	.	.	8s.
„ of Widow Phipps for 2 yards	.	.	.	8s.
„ of Mistress Parrett for 2¼ yards	.	.	.	9s.
„ of Richard Heath for 1¼ yards ¹	.	.	.	5s.
„ of Margaret Hill for 1 yard	.	.	.	4s.
„ of Widow Chard for 1 yard	.	.	.	4s.
„ of Matthew Eyers for 1 yard	.	.	.	4s.

There were about 12 yard-lands in the Park.'

Thirty-two yard-lands.

Compare the above list with the list of tenants in 1530, and a discrepancy of ten and a half yard-lands will be found. Perhaps the demesne land of the manor may be omitted in the former list.

'Item received of 12 cottages at 12d. the cottage, 12s.

'Received at 10d. the bushell for 32 bushels from 32 yard-lands, 26s. 8d.

'Total malt money and levy, £7 17s. 8d.

'Total of yard-lands, 32. The present number, 44.

'Quaere whether the difference (12 yard-lands) was inclosed at this time; what part of it was laid to the cottages and what part to the Park of Sir T. Spencer; whether the Park paid the church rates?'

In Yarnton and Begbroke the yard-land represented thirty-two statute acres.

The malt money in the shape of Whitsun ale provided the churchwardens with funds for carrying out the church services and providing bread and wine for the Sacrament.

Names of places in Yarnton and the adjoining meadows from the Charter of Ensham Abbey:—Wyreshey, Wroghtehey, Longemedede, Achey, Froggenhale, Stoweham, Genynhey, Landemedede, Stubelfurlong, Longelete, Cleyhuth, Wytenhale, Claxhurst, Monkshede, Sydelakesham, Cryspesham, Weymore, et le Croft quod vocatur Culvyrmede, Overeyt et Nethereyt, Calvecroft².

¹ 'Quarton' is here used.

² Dugdale's Mon. Ang. vol. 3, p. 17.

CHAPTER V.

BELLS AND CHARITIES.

THE following lines appeared in the Oxford Herald, dated, Lincoln College, December, 1838:—

LINES WRITTEN ON HEARING YARNTON BELLS.

'Tis winter's eve—the bleak winds blow,
The firmament is dark;
The parch'd leaf rustles in the snow,
Hush'd is the sheep dog's bark.

Oh! what a charm, at this lone hour,
When nature is so still,
Yarnton! swells forth from thy old tow'r,
And echoes on yon hill!

No mournful sound bursts from thy hills,
As of a fun'ral lay;
The musical and sweet peal tells
Some gay and festive day.

Unto my mind that merry ring
Brings days and years gone by;
When youth and hope were in their spring,
And bright was fancy's eye.

Those sounds—they tell of joys long fled
When all was blithe and gay,
Of friends, now number'd with the dead,
Join'd with their kindred clay.

They tell me too of that dread time,
When my life's spring shall fail;
Never again to hear their chime
Gladden the wintry gale.

Then, Yarnton, swell thy joyous sounds,
Thy harmony ne'er stay;
Each peal with solemn truth resounds,
And speaks a future day.

A 'ring' of six bells hangs in the church tower of Yarnton, each bell, with the exception of the second, bearing this inscription¹:—

'Sir Thomas Spencer, Knt. and Baronet, Lord of this Manor, gave me. 1620.'

with the Spencer arms. The second bell having been cracked was recast at the expense of the Vicar, Dr. V. Thomas in 1852.

It must not be supposed that there were no bells at Yarnton before Sir Thomas' time, the old account book assures us there were. It seems most probable that Sir T. Spencer after building his tower had them recast, and perhaps added to their number. The bells until late years have been a constant source of trouble and expense to the parish, either from faulty hanging or from bad ringing, and certainly they were seldom silent.

The 'Sanctus,' Churchwarden 'Sans,' Vernacular 'Tinckler' is the small bell usually hung over the chancel and formerly tolled during the elevation of the Host at Mass.

The following extracts and remarks may be found interesting:—

1611. 'Paid for baldricks for the bells, 11s.²'

'The Sans bell was changed and taken to Oxford.'

1619. 'Paid for casting of the bell and metal, £16 15s. 0d.'

'Pd. for making the Band at the casting of the Bell, 7d.'

'Pd. for carying the Bell, 16s. 0d.'

'Pd. for our charges, 6s. 0d.'

'Pd. unto one going for the Bell whele, 7d.'

'For clout leather and Trussing and Bucking the Bells.'

We now come to the Spencer time.

1624. 'Pd. to Francis Mall (the Blacksmith) for trussing of three Bells, and one to helpe him, 1s. 8d.'

'Ringing when the Great Bell was stocked.'

'Pd. to Steven Townsend for fetching the bell stock from Ciddlington.'

1628. 'Pd. Durbidge (Wheelwright) 8 new caies, 8 cleates, 2 Cotterells, nayles and a new Bawdricke for the Sance Bell.'

1636. 'For drawing upp the bell stocks into the Tower and mending the Loafte, 1s.'

1638. 'A Butt bought for making new stocks.'

At length the Vicar seems to have come to the conclusion that

¹ The Tenor Bell weighs 1 ton 8 cwt. Dr. Symonds, vol. 4, p. 260. See p. 217 of this history where 'All Bells' and the leads were reserved to the Queen. We do not know whether she removed

them or whether a further sum of money was paid upon them.

² A baldrick is a leather band used for ringing.

the village blacksmith was not competent to manage the bells and insisted upon better skilled help.

‘To Keene for setting up the bells in good order to be rung, and newe hanging.’

Keene was a bell-founder in Woodstock. He was paid quarterly, 2s.

‘Paid to Keene in parte of 7s. for keeping the bells one yeare being St. Thomas’ Day last, 1s. 6d.’

‘Received from Keene for a bell stock, 6s. 7d.’

1645. ‘Pd. Jonas Long for new hanging the Bells, 10s.’

1652. ‘For 6 bell ropes weighing 28 lbs. at 5d. lb.’

1667. ‘Pd. Henry Nixon for mending the Greate Bell whele, and timber and nailes, 5s.’

1670. ‘To Robert Burle for bell ropes.’

1680. ‘Pd. John Parratt for Leather and his Labor for the bucking of 3 bells’ clappers, 1s. 6d.’

1682. ‘Pd. Nathaniel Faulkener¹ for the 6 bell ropes, 16s. 10d.’

1685. ‘To Richard Brookes and his three brothers, 6s.; to do. for nayles and a board for the bells, 6d.’

1695. ‘Pd. for expenses on the agreement when the bell-founder and the bell-hanger came to looke on the bells, 2s.’

The fourth bell was rehung this year.

1701. ‘For new hanging the three biggest bells and lumber and nails, 10s. 6d.’

OCCASIONS UPON WHICH THE BELLS WERE RUNG.

The village of Yarnton being situated upon the highroad between Oxford and the Royal Town of Woodstock, was privileged to share in all public rejoicings and to welcome with its bells the royal party, when the Court came to pass a few weeks in this neighbourhood. We can trace with interest the events of the times from the early years of James I to the present century, by following the chronicle of the Bells of Yarnton.

1610. ‘Paid for ringinge on his Majesty’s coronation-day, beinge the 27 Julie, 9d.’

This anniversary had probably been changed this year as the King was crowned upon the 25th July, 1603.

1610. ‘Paid for ringinge for his Matys Preservason from the Gowries in Scotland the 5th of August, 9d.’

¹ N. Faulkner, probably at Kidling- for spinning, and no doubt kept a rope-walk.

‘On the 5th August, 1603, there were (by the king’s orders) morning and evening prayers and sermons with bonfires at night, all men being charged to praise God for his Majesty’s escape from the murderous hands of the Earl of Gowry that day three years past ¹.’

The Gowrie Plot was concocted in a house where now stands the County Hall of Perth; the Ruthven family lost their title of Earl for this conspiracy.

1610. ‘Paid for ringinge at the King and Queene’s goainge from Woodstock at two severall times, beinge the 27th and 29th August.’

Mr. Marshall, in his History of Woodstock, tells us that the King and Queen, with the Prince of Wales, were there upon the 24th and 25th of August, and the King hunted and killed several stags in the neighbourhood of Ditchley and Cornbury ².

1610. ‘Paid for ringinge for the happie Presavasion of the King’s Maj’tie and the whole realme from the Gunpowder Treason the Fifth Nov^b.’

Of course this occurs every ensuing year.

1610. ‘Paid for ringinge of the bells same day (10th March) beinge the day of the P-claiming y Kinge, 6d.’

This day again is probably transferred, as the King was proclaimed upon 24th March.

1612-17-18-20. ‘Ringinge when the King and Queen did come by.’

1624. ‘Paid for ringinge when the King went by.’

The King was at the Manor House at Woodstock on the 24th August, with the French ambassador. The chief entertainment there was the hunting of ‘Cropear ³’ a stag kept for the purpose. The sermon before the King was preached by Dr. Prideaux, Rector of Exeter College and of Kidlington. We now come to the bridal visit of the young King and his Bride the fair daughter of France. Charles and Henrietta Maria were received with due honour by the Parson and his people, and escorted through the parish.

1625. ‘Paid for washing the surplice when the King was at Woodstock, 4d.’

‘Charles I was at Oxford on 1st August and opened the Parliament which lasted until the 12th ⁴.’

¹ Stowe, Pictorial History.

² Marshall’s Woodstock, p. 174.

³ U. S. p. 181.

⁴ Stowe, Pictorial History.

At the time of this visit the Plague was very bad in many places, it was ordered

‘that at Woodstock none may go from thence to return nor any come thither, and for contraveners a gibbet is set up at the Court Gate¹.’

1631. ‘Paid for ringing when the King went to Woodstock, 1s. 6d.’

‘For the ringers for the King’s Coronation day, 2d.’

1636. ‘For ringing when the King came to Woodstock, and at his return.’

This occurred twice in this year.

The following will account for the Court spending so much time this year in the country.

‘The Justices of the co. of Middlesex put off the fair at Bow, the place being very hot with the sickness, and take care that publication be made in all markets and parish churches adjoining to prevent any confluence of people.’ June 2, 1636.

Order of the King in Council, Hampton Court, June 12th, 1636.

‘Upon consideration of the great increase of infection it is ordered that the faire at St. James, also that at Westminster, shall be put off for this year².’

In this year the King and Queen went in August to Enstone to inspect the new water-works which had just been made there by T. Bushel, Esq.³

1640. ‘For Bread and cheese at the Proclamation, 7s.’

This may refer to the following:—

‘A proclamation was made in 1640 against libellous and seditious pamphlets and discourses from Scotland⁴.’

1641. ‘For ringing uppon the day of thanksgiving for the peace and unities between our two countries of England and Scotland, 1s. 6d.’

Letters from Scotland were received by the Houses of Parliament

‘certifying that they had received the Report of the final concluding of the peace with great joy and that the general thanksgiving will be observed by them on the 7th Sept. next. On the 31st Aug. the King was feasted by the Provost of Edinbro’ in the Parliament House⁵.’

During the Commonwealth no bell-ringing is recorded.

¹ Marshall’s Woodstock, u. s. p. 182.

² State Papers.

³ Marshall’s Woodstock, u. s. p. 191.

⁴ Printed in Rushworth’s Hist. Coll. iii. p. 1094. (State Papers.)

⁵ State Papers, 1641, p. 108.

1660. 'For the ringers when the King was proclaimed, 3s.'

'For bread and beere, 6s.'

1664. 'For the ringers when the King went by, 3s. 4d.'

1681, Mar. 17. 'Given the ringers when the King went by, 1s. 6d.'

These appear to be the only notices we have of Charles II.

In Wood's Life we read:—

the 14 March, 1681, the King came into Oxford. The Parliament was to sit on the 21st¹.

In the Register Book, 1st vol.:—

1683. '27th Feby. Joyce, daughter of Nicholas Dew was touched by the King.'

1685. 'To the Ringers at Coronation Day, 5s.'

1685. 'Dinner (drink) at the Bonfire, 5s.'

'Feb. 6. The day King James 2d came to his Crown.'

'News came that the rebels (James, Duke of Monmouth) were routed and dispersed in a skirmish had early on Sunday morning. Whereupon a bonfire was made at Carfax by the Lord Lieut. Earl of Abendon, and another in C. C. great quad.' July 7th, two days later, 'a large body of militia was raised in Oxford².'

1686. 'To the ringers and those that hope make the highway for the King, 12s.'

This probably refers to the same occasion as follows. The churchwardens were not very accurate at all times with their dates, as the books were made up every two years. The King arrived in Oxford, Saturday, 3rd September, and left on the 5th.

'He afterwards went to Yarnton, Cassington and Witney, where they presented him with a pair of blankets³.'

1689. 'Ringing at the King's Crowning, 6s. William III.

1695. 'Tolling at the Queen's Funeral.' Queen Mary.

1696. 'Ringing when the King came by.'

On this occasion

1696. 'Ye charges of ye Surveyers of the high ways when the King came this rode, 16s. 2d.'

At the entrance into Yarnton parish the bridge over a brook is called 'King's Bridge.'

1697. 'Ringing when peace "was proclaimed."'

1702. 'Ringing when the Queen came by, 10s.' Queen Anne.

1704. 'Spent on the 7th, beinge thanksgiving and ringing, 3s.' Blenheim.

¹ Wood's Life, Bliss, pp. 225 and 227. thanksgiving to be held in all churches.

² Wood's Life, Bliss, p. 271. The King also appointed a special service of ³ Wood, MSS. D. 3, p. 104; and Life, p. 284.

1708. 'Ringing for the good news beyond sea.' Oudenarde.

1713. 'Ringing on the Thanksgiving day for Peace, 10s.' Treaty of Utrecht.

'Ringing for William Stringer.'

Probably the parish soldier returned home safe from the war.

1715. 'Ringing for King George coming to the Crown, 3s. 4d.'

'Ringing on Coronation Day, 5s.'

The bells were rung upon 'Our Lady's Day.'

The Curfew bell was rung every evening at 8 o'clock ¹.

CHARITIES LEFT TO THE PARISH.

Sir Thomas Spencer by his will bequeathed £10 a year to the poor of Yarnton, and to provide for the keeping up of his family chapel in the church, a condition which robbed his bequest of all its grace. The money was charged upon Windmill Field, the same field supporting a rent charge of £18 3s. 4d. to the poor of Woodstock ². This was by Indenture, dated 1652. The former bequest with its conditions is set forth upon Sir Thomas' monument. After the property had passed by sale from the Spencers there appears to have been a dispute about this money, and we find in the churchwardens' book the following.

1697. 'Disbursed for expenses of C. Wardens in suing for money due to the poor of the Parish from Windmill Field by the will of Sir Thomas Spencer, £1 2s. 0d.'

1698. 'Paid to Mr. Phillips of Ickford towards the lawsuit depending in the year of our Lord 1693, £1 2s. 0d.³'

The lawsuit extended to the Woodstock interest in Sir Thomas' will; the minutes of the Town Council contain this motion:—

'It is agreed to distrain the Cattle in Windmill Field for the non-payment of the £18 13s. 4d. per an., the gift of the late Sir Thomas Spencer. Woodstock, July 12, 1690 ⁴.'

Items of Spencer's bequest to Woodstock.

'To 10 poor men a 3d. loaf every Sunday yearly, and 12d. a piece in money besides the said bread.

And also to 10 poor women a 2d. loaf every Sunday, and 12d. a piece in money on the days aforesaid.

And also to 20 poor children a 1d. loaf a piece on every Sunday, and 6d. a piece in money on the several days aforesaid for ever ⁵.'

¹ This year, 1892, a subscription is being made for the renewal of the framework of the bells.

² Marshall's Woodstock, p. 416.

³ For Phillips, see Kidlington.

⁴ Dr. Symonds, MSS. vol. 3, p. 453.

⁵ u. s., vol. 3, p. 443.

ALDERMAN FLETCHER'S CHARITY.

Synopsis of the Deed of Trust deposited in the Parish Chest.
Printed copy, 1843:—

‘Whereas William Fletcher, one of the Aldermen of the City of Oxford, hath by a Deed dated the 5th February, 1823, given to the City of Oxford a sum of money to be disposed of yearly on St. Thomas’ Day by the Mayor, &c., amongst which is a Donation of Thirty Pounds to the Parish of Yarnton. And upon this further trust that the Mayor, &c., shall pay yearly to the Vicar and C. Wardens for the time being, the said sum to be applied in the manner following.

Ten Pounds thereof to be expended in Meat and Bread, distributed on Christmas Day amongst the Poor Inhabitants of the parish.

Five Pounds to be expended on the anniversary of the burial of the said William Fletcher in Yarnton Church, in Bread and Cakes in the manner and proportions following : Four pounds in Bread to be distributed amongst the poor inhabitants for the time being, and Twenty shillings in cakes for the children of the said inhabitants.

Two pounds to be paid annually to the Parish Clerk as an annual rent or recompense for the use of such part of the dwelling house lately built by the said Will. Fletcher at Yarnton for the said Clerk, wherein the Parish School now is kept.

Eight pounds to be paid on the anniversary of the burial of Will. Fletcher to the Parish Clerk who is hereby directed to summon the said Poor Inhabitants and Children to assemble on the said day yearly to receive the said Bread and Cakes, by tolling the great bell of the church as many tolls as the said W. F. shall be years old at the time of his Decease. (This proved to be 87.)

And the sum of the Five pounds residue of the Thirty pounds, or so much of it as shall from time to time be necessary for the repair of the said Clerk’s house.

And the residue of the said Five pounds, if any, to be paid towards the support of the Parish school.

Mem.—Should it at any time happen that the Clerk should require the room for his own use, then it is my wish that the said Two pounds paid to him for rent should be paid to some person willing to provide a house or room for the purposes of the school.

But if the school should be altogether discontinued, then I request that the said Two pounds may be paid to Two poor women belonging to and resident in Yarnton. And further if the school be discontinued it is my desire that the surplus of the Five pounds, if any, over and above the repair of the Clerk’s house, be given to Two poor men belonging to and resident in Yarnton.’

About ten years after Alderman Fletcher’s death irregularities in the distribution of this charity crept in, and a schedule of directions

was drawn up for its better management and signed by the Vicar and two churchwardens, and also by all the Trustees to Fletcher's will.

'Jan. 17, 1835. I. None but the Poor Inhabitants of Yarnton are to partake of his Christmas gifts, &c. Poor Parishioners dwelling out of the Parish are not to partake of these gifts, and if anything be given to them it is given wrongfully and redress may be sought.

II. On Christmas Day care must be taken that bread as well as meat be distributed.

III. If the Alderman's Burial day, Jan. 4th, fall on a Sunday it is our opinion that the Bread and Cakes should be distributed in the Yarnton Aisle or Church Porch, first the Bread and afterwards the Cakes, but always on the day appointed, Jan. 4th, Sunday or not.

IV. As to the Cakes, such children only should partake of them as are old enough to come to the church door and take them; they must be old enough to walk.

V. It seems to us fit and proper, that in the keeping the yearly accounts of the Alderman's charities, entries should be made of the number of pounds of meat distributed and the number of persons who partook of it and the price per pound; so too with the Bread, &c.

VI. Seeing that the Alderman was a sincere and single-hearted Christian and an exact observer of the Sabbath Day, and seeing too that he expended considerable sums in new pewing Yarnton Church and in providing foot boards to keep the feet warm in church, and seeing that he built a school-room, &c., We are of opinion that in distributing the Bread, Meat, and Cakes a distinction should be made between those who worship in that Parish Church that he fitted up and those who seldom or never enter it and those too who live the lives of heathens. To conclude: it is recommended that in making out the lists of the year, all persons (males or females, boys or girls) whose conduct during the past year has been wicked, should be dropped out of the Charity lists.

Signed, Vaughan Thomas, Vicar.

Yarnton, Jan. 17, 1835. James Osborne }
Thomas Kirby } Church Wardens.

The above Rules for regulating the Distribution of Alderman Fletcher's Charity are approved by us the Trustees under his will.

R. Wootten, Mayor.
H. Parsons, Alderman.
J. Lock, Alderman.
T. Ensworth, Alderman.
T. Wyatt, Alderman.

Oxford, Nov. 25, 1835.'

There is also for the use of the poor of Yarnton a small lying-in charity called West's.

CHAPTER VI.

I.—PARISH REGISTERS OF YARNTON AND OVERSEERS' BOOKS.

THE Registers of Yarnnton date from the year 1569, and are unusually well kept. With very trifling exceptions they appear to be perfect, some few leaves having been transcribed from another book. The marriages after the new Act was passed in 1653, if any took place, are wanting, only one being recorded in the church between that date and 1666.

The last entry in the old Register form occurs in 1750, and the new Parliamentary form begins in 1754. Dr. Thomas enquires what has become of the intervening entries? There is no trace of them. Several later marriages were solemnized in Magdalen College Chapel.

In the case of several of the Spencer births there occurs the curious interpolation noticed in their pedigree. It appears as if the family had returned home and had caused the births of their children which had taken place elsewhere to be entered over the existing entries in the book.

Besides the names recorded in the history of each family the following are all that appear of any interest :—

- Baptised—1607 Alice, daughter of Mr. Francis Parret.
1608 John, son of Mr. Francis Parret, gentleman.
1609 Margaret, dau. of Do.
1610 Susan, dau. of Do.
1612 Anne, dau. of Do.
1632 Anne, dau. of Mr. John Parret.
1634 Richard, son of Do.
Married—1651 Thomas Parret and Mary Durbridge.
Baptised—1621 Thomas, son of Mr. James Stone.
1623 Jane, dau. of Do.
1627 James, son of Do.
1629 John, son of Do.

- Baptised—1663 Thomas, son of Mr. Thomas Stone.
 1666 Anne, dau. of Mr. Thomas Stone.
 1669 Elizabeth Do., do.
- Married—1618 Mr. James Stone to Mrs. Ursula Ockley.
 1663 Mr. Thomas Stone and Anne Adderley.
- Deaths—1638 John, son of Mr. James Stone, buried.
 1640 Mr. James Stone.
 1641 Margarite, dau. of Mrs. Ursula Stone, widow.
 1671 Thomas, the son of Mr. Thomas Stone.
 1689 The Widdow Stone, buried.
- Baptised—1622 Ursula, dau. of Mr. Thomas Clayton, or Claxton, of London.
 1630 Lucie, dau. of Do.
- Buried—1632 Ursula, wife of Do., do.
- Married—1575 William Reffe and Elizabeth Goldsmith¹.
 This name may be of the same family as below.
- 1596 William Whitlocke, Gent, and . . . Basford.
 1579 Hugh Evans and Elizabeth Mynn.
- Baptised—1600 Samuel Evans, son of Hugh.
- Buried—1611 Hugh Evans the younger.
 1618 Mr. Hugh Evans, Minister of this Parish.
 1633 Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, widow.
- Baptised—1621 Anna, dau. of Nathaniel Harris.
 1623 Robert, son of Do.
 1625 Mary, dau. of Do.
 1627 Elizabeth, dau. of Do.
 1628 Ursula, dau. of Do.
 1629 Constance, dau. of Do.
 16. . Lucie, dau. of Do.
 1632 Richard, son of Do.
 1634 Gertrude, dau. of Do.
 1640 Margarite, dau. of Do.
- Married—1620 Nathaniel Harris and Anna Ockley. 20 Oct.
- Buried—1643 Ursula, dau. of Nathaniel Harris.
 „ Elizabeth, dau. of Do.
 „ Anne, wife of Do., Minister.
 1644 Nathaniel Harris, Minister of this Parish. 26 Feb.
- Baptised—1636 Elizabeth, dau. of Mr. John Chilmead of Shipton.
 1638 Mary, dau. of Do.

¹ Forty-eighth Report of Deputy Keeper of Records, p. 459. '1632. Chamberlain, Edward; Burrows, Richard; Thatcher, John; in right of their wives, Mary, Ann and Elizabeth, sisters of Will. Raves; Raves, Alice; Bonde, Richard; in right of his wife Jane, sister of Will. Raves. Livery of lands in Erdington alias Yarrington and God-

stow, co. Oxon. Warrant of Court of Wards. William Raves died 1 June, 1631.' In 1663, George Ryves, Gent. was Town Clerk of Woodstock, and so was Edward Ryves in 1719 and 1752. Dr. Thomas Rives was King's Advocate at Oxford, and was knighted there 19th March, 1644. Marshall's Woodstock, p. 427.

- Baptised—1643 James, son of Mr. Abraham Wright (and of Jane Stone above).
- Buried— 1645 Jane, wife of Mr. Abraham Wright.
- Married— 1617 Richard Hutt and Isabel Hedges of Thrupp.
- Baptised—1625 Hugh, son of a poor beggar woman, married in St. George's, Southwark, whose husband was pressed for a soldier.
- Buried— 1625 Mr. Richard Coventrie¹.
- 1626 Mrs. Coventrie, widow.
- 1600 Daniel Sharde².
- 1629 Elizabeth Sharde, widow.
- 1643 Mr. Thomas Leigh.
- 1643 Richard, son of Mrs. Mary Leigh, widow.
- 1654 Jane Newman of Woodstock, servant to Mr. George Leigh.
- 1689 Mr. George Leigh.
- Married— 1599 John Phipps and Margaret North.
- 1690 Robert Phipps of this parish and Elizabeth Colin of Ensham, at Witney Church by Mr. Holloway, then Curate.
- 1578 George Cash and Alice Cakebred.
- 1636 William Kersey of Kidlington and Eliz. Hatherway of this parish.
- 1641 Richard Cripplott of Kidlington and Jane Drane of this parish.
- 1643 William Barlow and Eliz. Matthew, both servants to the Commissary for the sicke here. Jan. 14
- 1651 Capt. John Roan of Greenwich in co. Kent and Mrs. Jane Charles of Oxford.
- 1666 George Dodd of Ciddelington and ye widow of North of Cassington.
- Buried— 1643 11 May. Ric. Meridick, a soldier of the General's regiment.
- 20 May. Walter Williams, servant to Mr. James Harrington, Coronett.
- Thos. Franckey, a soldier of the General's regiment.
- June 15. Benedict Bradley, a soldier of Coll. Bolle's regiment, and Richard Taylor of the same regiment.
- „ 17th. Ralph Deane, a soldier of the same.
- „ 18. Edmund Hill, a soldier of Col. Fitton's regiment.
- July. Several more from the same regiments.
- Aug. Mr. Edward Fowler, Ensign in Col. Bolle's regiment.
- Thomas Harris, soldier in my Lord General's regiment.

¹ See Begbroke.² See Kidlington.

- Buried— 1643 Several more from Col. Fitton's and Col. Lunsford's regiments.
 1644 11 Jan. Cuthbert Cartington, a Bishoprick man and a conductor in his Majesty's Traine of Artillery.
 1646 Four soldiers.
 1659 Mr. George Pudsey.
 1671 Captain Underhill.
- Married— 1719 Thos. Lambourne of the parish of Kidlington and Jane Lucat of this parish.
- Buried— 1690 Mr. Glandvill.
- Baptised and buried— 1692 Dorothy, dau. of Richard Carter, Clerk and Catherine his wife. Feb. 2 and 3.
- Married— 1635 James Toldervy, Glover, and Joane Evens, both of All Saints, Oxon¹.
 1636 Arthur Dewe alias Sadler and Frideswide Fisher.
- Baptised— 1642 Stephen, son of Stephen Marshall of Islipp.
- Buried— 1646 Robert Marshall, a Lyncolnshire man, a souldyer under Maister Edwards, was buried the 9th May.
 1653 The daughter of Mr. Robt. Standard, nurse child to M. P. Oct. 28.
 1723 Mr. Clerke was buried.
 1725 John Folliatt.
 1742 Edward Cavendish. Jan. 16.
 1743 Elizabeth Cavendish. Oct. 2.
 1754 Thomas Standard². Nov. 11.
- Baptised— 1726 Mary, daughter of Thomas Smith of Cassington. June 19.
- Buried— 1764 Nicholas Morris of the parish of Kidlington.
- Baptised— 1657 Richard, son of Edward Street³.

ABRAHAM WRIGHT.

Abraham Wright whose name appears in the above Register was an eminent preacher of his day. He was the son of Richard Wright of London, Gent.; born in 1611 in London; educated at Merchant Taylors' School; elected to St. John's College in 1629; B.A. 1633, M.A. 1637. He, with John Goad, who was afterwards Vicar of Yarnton, helped to entertain the King and Queen at St. John's on the 30th of August, 1636. He took Holy Orders at Ely House, Holborn, in 1637, and the second year following was ordained priest at Christ

¹ The Tolderveys were well known citizens of Oxford, one of them Mayor, who left charities to All Saints, where

he is buried. For particulars concerning them see Turner's Records of City.

² See Kidlington.

³ Ibid.

Church, Oxford, and became a favourite in the University pulpit. His marriage with Jane Stone is not to be found in the registry, but we learn the name of his wife from Wood's account; their son James was born in 1643 at Yarnton, who in after life was called to the Bar. Mrs. Wright died at Yarnton in 1645, and in August, the same year, the living of Okeham was presented to her husband. This he did not enjoy for many years, owing to his refusal to take the 'Covenant,' and whilst the Commonwealth continued he lived in retirement in London, and there acted as Rector of St. Olave's in Silver Street. He returned to his living at Okeham after the Restoration, where he died in 1690. Many sermons of his are published, and he also wrote several commentaries upon the Psalms, besides a work entitled *Deliciae Poetarum*¹.

DOUBLE NAMES OR ALIAS.

Several such are used in this Register.

Dewe alias Sadler appears for many years. John Due, alias Sadler, took the oath in Oct., 1570, as one of the persons who with the Mayor of Oxford swore to observe the privileges of the University². Another family who styled themselves Izard alias Evans gives rise to some confusion. A parish clerk enters his own name as follows:—

'Thomas Evens came in Clerke, July 2. Thos. Izard, Clerke of ye parish of Yarnton, 17th July, 1711, enterred fullely and hoely.'

Richards alias Needham.

II.—MAIMED SOLDIERS AND MARSHALSEA MONEY.

Under these headings are included two obsolete charges by which every parish was bound to contribute towards the support of the poor

¹ From Wood's *Athenae*, Bliss, vol. 4, p. 275, and Register of Merchant Taylors', vol. 1, p. 116, Hearne says of him, 'Mr. Rawlinson of St. John's showed me—"Anniversary" by Mr. James Wright to the memory of his ever honoured father. James Wright published many books, amongst others an

Abridgement of the Monasticum Anglicanum and the Antiquities of Rutland, which Hearne considered "very well done." Hearne's Coll., vol. 3, p. 88, and vol. 2, p. 372, Historical Society.

² Clark's Univ. Reg., vol. 2, pt. 1, p. 302.

of the State who were precluded by the action of the law from earning their own livelihood, or who had been wounded in their country's cause.

Marshalsea money was a certain charge included in the county rate for the relief of poor prisoners confined in the King's Bench and Marshalsea prison, agreeably with the statutes of Elizabeth and the Georges. 43 Elizabeth, c. 2, s. 14; 12 Geo. II; 53 Geo. III¹.

The entries under this head in the churchwardens' book are very irregularly made. They amount uniformly to 6*s.* 6*d.*, and range from 1611 to 1641 after which they cease. In 1637

'Paid to maimed soldiers and Marshalsea and House of correction, 6*s.* 6*d.*'
1641 'Paid to the King's Bench and maimed soldiers and Marshalsea, 6*s.* 6*d.*'

Beyond this there are no distinguishing remarks and no large arrears to meet as at Kidlington, where the parish was forty years in arrears. Chelsea Hospital met the case of invalided soldiers, King William himself laying the foundation stone in 1682. 'Marshalsea money' continued to be paid by the overseers until about the year 1827. In that year it amounted to £35 1*s.* 8*d.* Then it seems to have merged into the county rate.

III.—THE OVERSEERS' BOOK, BEGINNING 1782.

The price given for vermin at Yarnton was much the same as at Kidlington, 'Heug Hougs' 4*d.* each, a fox rose to 3*s.*, and the mole catcher received a stipend of £3 a year, considerably more than the sexton got. Here are a few items from the domestic management of the parish:—

- 1785. 'Paid for seeking George Grinett, 14*s.* 9*d.*'
- 1792. 'Paid for a light for Langford's window, 2*s.* 6*d.*'
 'Postage of two letters directed to the Minister, 1*s.* 1*d.*'
- 1793. 'Four men for carrying Denton's child to the Infirmary, 4*s.*'
- 1794. 'To William Morris towards his family being inoculated.'
 'Five and $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. of Hemp at 8*d.* per lb., £2 4*s.* 0*d.*'
 'Spinning do., £2 4*s.* 0*d.*'
 'Joseph Langford, small pox, £5 14*s.* 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*'
 'Paid overseers of Hensington for do., £2 5*s.* 1*d.*'

¹ History of Westcote Barton, by Rev. J. Marshall, p. 31.

There was a 'Pest House' in the fields behind Hensington, to which probably these people were sent.

1795. 'For building a new House, timber, &c., £21 0s. 8½d.; Mason's bill, £7 19s. 8d.; Glazier's do., 14s. 6d.; Thatching, £4 0s. 10½d.; Haum, £6 16s. 6d.; Eighteen loads of stone, £1 16s. 0d.; Two loads of plank stone, 16s.; Bricks and lime, £1 1s. 0d.; Carriage to new House, £6 15s. 0d.; Preedy going to the New House, 5s.'
 'A plow for Richard Prosser, 5s.' (Doubtless a breast plough.)
1797. 'Paid to the Sunday school 18s. yearly.'
 'Paid Mr. Morrell for keeping a Militia man's family at Coventry, £6 3s. 10d. yearly.'
 'Prosser's family in smallpox, carrying them to Wolvercote and back.'
1799. 'Redeemed Faudrey's plough, 2s. 6d.'
 'Apprenticing Mary Grinett £15 15s. 0d, and Expenses £2 3s. 9d.'
 This block of 7 cottages belonging to the Paternoster farm rented by the parish was called 'The College.' 'Quit rent for the "College," 1s.' 'Mrs. Lay for a years Quit rent for the "College," 1s.' 'Insurance for the "College," 7s.' 'All for thatching the "College," £1 14s. 1d.'
1802. 'A poor man and woman fetched from the turnpike, died and buried.'
 'Received by stockings, £16 10s. 0d.; also 11s. 9d., by thread, 10s.'
1803. 'Apprenticing of Cat. and John Druet, £25. Expenses, 12s.'
1805. 'Pd. to men, women and children by the yard-land, £9 14s. 10½d.'
1806. 'Pd. for three doz. of flocks, £1 16s. 0d. Spinning the same, do.'
 'Two new houses built.'
1807. 'By spinning, £6 9s. 6d.; by stockings, 11s. 1d.'
 'Handcuffs, 3s. A spinning wheel cost 4s.'

In the years 1790-91, and 1807, the parish was managed by women overseers: viz. Eliza Strainge, Anne Miles, and Ann Lay.

1815. 'Coals bought by the parish cost 30s. a ton.'
1816. 'Pd. for enonclating Smith's two children with the Cow Pock, 5s.'
1819. 'Received by sale of stockings, £2 2s. 3d.'
 ' „ by sale of cloth, £8 17s. 6d.'
 'Pd. for knitting 2½ lbs worsted, 11s. 8d.'
1828. 'Papers from the House of Lords, 9d.'
1829. 'Mr. Cooper's expenses with Water Eaton, £1 16s. 6d.¹'
1830. 'Paid to stop Couling from having a wife, 4s.'
1831. 'At a Vestry it was agreed that every holder in the parish should take his proper proportion of the Labourers out of work, that being one day for one yard-land, and that the Labourers should be paid the usual rate of wages in the parish.'

¹ A dispute about the Lot Meadows, *infra*.

The persons on the rates were paid by the yard-land, and in 1814, seventeen persons received £9 1s. 2d. amongst them.

1836. 'Pd. for valuing the parish, to Mr. Richmond¹, £65 os. od.'
'Paid Mr. Neighbour for a "Terrier," £1.'

This Terrier is in Exeter College.

When the new Poor Law Act came into force, this parish paid from £30 to £50 a year to the 'Union.'

In 1839 at a Vestry, it was agreed to sell all the parish houses, fifteen in number, including 'The College' and the 'Round House,' to Sir George Dashwood, it being thought to be more advantageous to the parish to sell them all together to one proprietor than to put them up to public auction; Mr. Mynn acted as agent for Sir G. Dashwood. There were at that time eighty-four poor persons living in these cottages. The new Poor Law, 1835, had compelled every parish to change its management of the poor upon the rates. 'The College' was held by the parish at a quit rent of 1s. a year from the owner of Mr. Walker's farm. This sale was with the consent of the Poor Law Commissioners. The name 'College' was used in Kidlington for some buildings, and possibly only meant that the houses were built in a block.

The following agreement was come to concerning the Roundsmen, at a general meeting of parishioners in 1799:—

'All persons coming to the Overseers to be employed by the yard-land shall take a ticket from the Overseer to the Employer for the payment of his or her money and for the said persons to come at proper hours or otherwise to be paid according to their hours.' Signed by 11 principal farmers.

1805. Owing to the small size of the parish Yarnton joined with Shipton in providing £20 for the support of one man as soldier.

1812. There was no poor house in the village.

1813. A dispute arose between Yarnton and the Great Mill at Wolvercote about the level of the water. Part of Yarnton was flooded. The great ditch (the Master Ditch called Honeycot) runs through Yarnton to Mr. Swan's mill and joins the back stream.

¹ Of Littlemore, and Neighbour of St. Clement's.

1815. The Yarnton subscription to the Waterloo Fund was £9 2s. 11d., of which £8 10s. 0d. was from the parish, the balance from the boarding school.

POPULATION.

1801. Total 215 ; 38 houses.
 1811. Total 273.
 1821. Total 273.
 1831. Total 299. Males, 147 ; Females, 152. Families 62. Inhabited houses 60. Empty 1. Agricultural families 43. Handicraft 10. Others 10.
 1841. Total 302.
 1851. Total 317.
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IV.—THE CONSTABLE'S BOOK BEGINS 1749.

This book deals with much the same class of things as the Overseers', except there is a dash of criminal business in the entries.

The 'passing on' of soldiers and sailors seems to have been the constable's business, and this was very frequent. The 'Mileway tax' fell to them to collect and getting certain parties married who it was found advisable should do so ; clearing the public watercourses and providing for inquests.

1756. 'Expenses with Elizabeth Popjoy and burying her child, 12s.'

1774. 'Clearing the water course, Constable's Ditch at Sackbridge.'

This is the bridge on the high road over Seed Lake.

1784. 'Gave John Smith for seeking George Grinett, £1 1s. 0d.'

1787. 'Paid for marrying Miss Price, 10s. 6d.'

In the Overseers' book we have

1787. 'Paid for part of a ring for S. Price and spent at same time, 2s. 6d.'
 (She was married to Verney.)

1798. 'Going to Woodstock 3 times about the "sagerings"¹'

'Paid the Crowner for sitting on the Body of Robert Mills, 13s. 4d.'

1830. 'No Constable needed and none sworn in.'

The scene changes next year—

1831. 'Paid William Hill for 25 Constables' staves, £1 1s. 0d.'

The 'Swing' riots in 1831-2 are the explanation of this entry. The riots originated from the distress prevalent in agricultural districts

¹ This year the Oxfordshire Regiment was in Ireland.

owing to the high price of bread and the fear among the farm labourers that the newly-invented threshing machines would further reduce their wages. 'Captain Swing' by threatening letters and burning of ricks so far acted upon the farmers that wages were increased and the people gradually quieted.

1836. 'Paid Jurymen for East's child, 8s.'

V.—MILEWAY TAX.

From Dr. Symonds' MSS. vol. 1, p. 380. Copy of a letter explaining this matter:—

'Feby. 7, 1699-1700. From Dr. Wallis to Dr. Pointer, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

Sir,

I have made search (as you desired) for papers relating to the admeasurement of the 5 miles from Oxford whose Inhabitants are by Act of Parliament obliged to contribute to the repairing of the Highways within a Mile of Oxford, but can find none . . . I do not remember I ever saw such, but heard by word of mouth from Dr. Langbain what I know concerning it, which was to this purpose.

Some disputes arising about this Admeasurement, whether in the time of Charles 1st or sooner, I do not well remember, but think it was in the first settlement of the Act, the Privy Council settled that Business in this manner; that the Admeasurement should begin from the Wall or gates of the City of Oxford, that from them they should measure 5 miles in every side, the nearest way, over hedge and ditch, without being obliged to keep the highway. That such Admeasurement was then made and at the end of 5 miles so found, Posts or marks were set up as the Boundaries that way; and in particular such boundary was set up in the town of Abington, part of the town being found within the 5 miles, but not all of it. And like Boundaries I presume were set up towards other Parts. And such practice hath been ever since, and such practice, so long continued without interruption may be reputed a sufficient settlement as to that point. This Act of Parliament was first made in the time of Elizabeth and was then but a temporary act to continue for seven years, but by divers continuations was continued to the time of Charles 1st. And then, about his 16th or 17th year, this Act was made perpetual, till revoked by Act of Parliament.'

By the Mileway Act made in the 18th of Elizabeth and in 35th of same reign¹, it is provided that every person having one yard-land or more in his possession lying within five miles of Oxford, shall for

¹ Dr. Symonds, MSS. p. 348.

every yard-land perform such personal duty as in the said Acts is mentioned, or in lieu thereof shall make annual payments to the Vice-Chancellor and Mayor.

An Act was passed in 1771 empowering the Vice-Chancellor and the Mayor to use the Clerk of the Commissioners of Highways to levy the ' Mileway money ¹.'

¹ Gough, Oxford, No. 138, Bod. Lib.

CHAPTER VII.

THE MANOR OF YARNTON SUBSEQUENT TO 1536.

REWLEY ABBEY being dissolved and the property gathered into the rapacious bosom of the King, we next find the Manor of Yarnton given as part of his fee to Dr. George Owen¹, the King's physician, for so-called professional services. Dr. Owen secured many manors around Oxford in this way, and his family were known as Owen of Godstow for several generations.

Grant to Dr. Owen of the Manor from the Augmentation Office :—

'19th April, 29th Hen. 8 . . . in consideration of the sum of £676 by him paid, gave and granted to the said George Owen all his manor of Erdington with its members and appurtenances in the co. of Oxford late belonging to the dissolved monastery of Rewley (except a piece of Pasture land called "Limecroft"² containing 80 acres) which premises were to the clear yearly value of £59 13s. 4d. And all the Reversions, Rents, Profits and revenues of the said Manor, to hold the same to the said George Owen and his assigns for ever; to be held of us and our successors at the 10th part of one Knight's fee and the year rent of £6.'

This copy, proved by Dr. Vaughan Thomas, is in the archives of Exeter College.

There appear to be no memorials of the Owen family left in Yarnton.

The Manor was not long in changing hands again. It was bought by John Durant of Cotsmore, co. Rutland (who lived 35 Henry VIII) for his eldest son William who, says Wood³,

¹ Also for the sum of £676 paid into the Augmentation Office. Rewley dissolved in 1536. Yarnton Manor in hands of King and account with list of tenants in Augmentation Office in 1538. In hands of George Owen in 1540.

² There is still a portion of land called 'Lyncroft' in the Manor Farm.

³ Wood, E. gives us the names of the following children: 'Patrick, William, Elizabeth, Mary, &c.'; but not Fane born at Yarnton. From the style of the entry in the Register it would appear that John Durant was son of a knight.

PEDIGREE OF SPENCER OF YARNTON.

This pedigree, as far as the first Sir William Spencer of Yarnton, is taken from Collins' Peerage, vol. 1, p. 349, under the head of 'Marlborough.' What follows is from Burke's Extinct Baronetage, supplemented from the Register and tombstones at Yarnton. The entries marked thus * are from the Register, those † from the tombs.

The following coats of arms are all emblazoned in the east window of the Spencer aisle in Yarnton church:—1. *Spencer, of Althorp*.—Quarterly, azure and gules; in 1st and 4th a fret or; over all, on a bend sable, three escallop shells argent; in 1st quarter a mallet for difference. 2. *Spencer, of Wormleighton*.—Azure, between three sea-mews' heads a fesse ermine. 3. *Deverille*.—Gules, three stirrups with straps in pale or. 4. *Lyncolne*.—Or, on a cross gules four estoiles argent. 5. *Warstead*.—Argent, between three cinquefoils gules a chevron of the 2nd. 6. *Graunt*.—Ermine, on a chevron gules five plates. 7. *Kilsen*.—Sable, three lucies haurient argent, a chief or. 8. *Bowyer*.—Or, a bend vair, cotized sable. 9. *Braithwaite*.—Or, two bends engrailed sable. 10. *Ruddings*.—Argent, upon a bend between two lions rampant of the 2nd, a wyvern with wings overt of the 1st. 11. *Kniferstall*.—Sable, three delvers, argent, issuant or. 12. *John Spencer and Viscount Tivetot*.—Spencer and Spencer, impaled, surmounted by a viscount's coronet. 13. *Elizabeth Spencer, who md. 1st S. Gerard and 2ndly F. Bassett*.—Parted per pale; 1st parted again, argent, a cross gules. *Gerard*, and argent, three bars wavy azure. *Bassett*, her two husbands; 2nd part, *Spencer*. 14. *Constance Spencer, who md. G. Marwood*.—Parted per pale; argent, between a chevron ermine three goats' heads erased argent, in chief an escutcheon with Spencer arms; 2nd, *Spencer*. 15. *Catherine Spencer who md. John Dormer*.—Parted per pale; azure, ten billets or, on a chief or a demi lion issuant sable, *Dormer*; 2nd, *Spencer*. 16. *Dame Jane Spencer*.—Parted per pale, *Spencer*, impaling argent on a fesse sable a lion passant of the 1st for *Garrard*. 17. *Mordaunt*.—Argent, between three stars of six points sable a chevron of the 2nd.

John Despencer, at the siege of Rouen with Henry V. = Alice, daughter and heiress of Giles Deverelle.

Nicholas, his son and heir. = Joan, daughter of Richard Polard, of co. Kent.

Thomas =

Henry, of Badby, co. Northants, d. in 16 Ed. IV. = Isabel, daughter and heiress of Henry Lincoln.

William = daughter of Gilbert de Clare, had a son John, who died s. p. in 1436.

John of Hodnel = daughter and heiress of — Warstead.

Three sons.

William = Elizabeth Empsoe.

John of Hodnel.

Sir John, who bought the Manor of Wormleighton, co. Warwick, built the house there, and was famous for his grand housekeeping. He was knighted by Henry VIII. Buried at Brington, Northants, 1542.

Isabel, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Walter Graunt, Esq., of Sutterfield, co. Warwick.

Sir William, knighted 1549, Sheriff of Northants, died 1552. = Susan Knightley, of Fausley, co. Northants. Both buried at Brington, Northants.

Sir John, of Althorp and Wormleighton, Sheriff of Northants, died 1556. = Catherine, daughter of Sir Thomas Kitson, of Hengrave, co. Suffolk. Both buried at Brington, Northants.

Sir John, Knt.

Thomas.

Sir William, of Yarnton, knighted 1592, died 1609, 19 Nov.* Monument in Yarnton church.

Margaret, daughter of Francis Bowyer, Esq., Alderman of London, Buried 19 June, 1608, Yarnton*.

George †.

Sir Thomas † = Margaret Braithwaite, (2nd) Richard Butler, Baronet 1611, Kntd. at Whitehall, buried Aug. 1622*. dau. of Rd. Braithwaite, Serjeant-at-Law, buried at St. Thomas' Day, 1650*.

Elizabeth † = Sir Thos. Russell, of Strensham, co. Worcester †.

Katherine (styled = Sir Henry Montague, Mary, born 1588*, md. at Yarnton, 10 Oct. 1608*. widow in Reg.), King's Serjeant-at-Law, ancestor to the Dukes of Manchester †.

Sir Max. Dallison, of Hayling, co. Kent †.

Alice, b. 1590*. = Sir Thomas Culville, of Newton, Cambridge †.

Margaret, b. 1592*. = Sir J. Woodward, of Evesham, co. Worcester †.

Anne, b. 1584*.

William †, b. 1608*, knighted at Oxford, 1629, Bart, lived at Claverdon, d. 1657.

Constance, dau. of — Lucy, = (2nd) Sir Ed. Smith, of Charlote, co. Warwick.

Thomas, b. 1609* = dau. of — Wagstaffe, of Harbury, Warwickshire*.

John, b. 1611, d. 1615*.

Elizabeth, b. 1612, d. 1617*.

Alice, b. and d. 1613*.

Margaret, b. 1615, d. 1618*.

Richard †, b. 1616*.

Edward, b. 1618*.

Catherine, b. 1610, d. 1621*.

Margaret, b. 1633* ; William, b. 1635*.

Sir Thomas, b. at Charlote, 2 Jan, = Jane, dau. of Sir Thos. Garrard, of Lamer, co. Herts, died 30 April, 1712, aged 74 †.

Constance, b. at Charlote, 19 Oct. 1636.

Sir Ed. Smith, Bart., of Edmondthorpe, co. Leicester.

Alice, b. at Charlote, 5 Jan. 1637.

Sir Francis Key, of Mickleton, co. Gloucester.

Margaret, b. at Charlote, 31 Dec. 1641, buried at Yarnton, 1642*.

Arabella, b. at Charlote, 10 Dec. 1640.

Jane, died infant †.

William, b. in London, buried Sept. 13, 1633, aged 26 †.

Jane, b. in London, 1658*, buried June 13, 1689, aged 32 †.

Robert Spencer †, Viscount Tivetot.

Margaret, b. 1660*, died infant.

A son, b. d. 1661*.

Thomas, b. and d. 1665*.

Constance, b. 1662*.

Geo. Marwood †, of Busby, in bur. April, 1705, aged 41* †.

Elizabeth, b. 1664* = (1st) Sir S. Gerard, of Busby, in bur. April, 1705, aged 41* †.

Katherine, b. 1670* = John Dormer, of Ascot.

(2nd) George Mordaunt, 5th son of John, Lord Mordaunt.

Jane = Cholmeley Turner, of Kirkleatham, Yorks.

John, b. 1690* (98?).

Margaret †, dau. of Sir Thos. Spencer, buried at Yarnton, July 22, 1706*, aged 32 †. = Harry Mordaunt, 2nd son of Lord Mordaunt, brother to above George Mordaunt. = (2nd) Penelope Tippiings, of Ewhelme, co. Oxon.

Charles †.

Harry †.

John †.

Thomas †.

Herbert †.

Elizabeth †.

Margaret, born at Yarnton, 1703*.

¹ He built the church tower and the manor house at Yarnton.

² In the Registry at Charlote the following:—Constance, dau. of Domini Gul. Spencer and Constanca his wife, born 10th Oct. 1636. Alicia, dau. do, 5th January, 1637. Thomas, son do, 2nd January, 1638. Arabella, dau. do, 10th December, 1640. Margaret, dau. do, 31st December, 1641. In a book belonging to the Lucy family it says Sir William Spencer died in 1657, but no place mentioned. His widow married Sir Edward Smythe, of Whitechurch, Bucks, Lord Chief Justice of Common Pleas in Ireland, who died at Whitechurch in 1681, and is buried there. He married 2ndly Mary Meith in 1675 (Whitechurch Register). These extracts are due to the kindness of Rev. Fred. Tobin, Vicar of Charlote, and Rev. G. T. Medd, Vicar of Aylesbury. The application to St. Martin's-in-the-Field and Harbury, Warwickshire, have yielded nothing.

³ A. à Wood, E.

⁴ Burke in Extinct Baronetries says that Richard Spencer married — Wagstaffe. He was the ancestor of Spencer of Eardington, co. Salop. Sir Joseph Wagstaffe, probably uncle to this lady, was Major-General in the army in the west.

⁵ These two children appear to belong to this union; they are entered in the Reg. as follows:—1693, Margarine, dau. of Thos. Spencer, Esq., was christened 17 June (nat. & chr., 3 in nat.). 1695, William, son of Thomas Spencer, Esq., was christened June 11 (nat. Ma. 29, cir. b. 4, post na.).

⁶ Viscount Tivetot, son of Spencer of Wormleighton. He will proved in the Court of the Chancellor of the University of Oxford. * Right Honble. Vis. Tivetot, at Christ Church, 18th July, 1694.

⁷ The birth of John Dormer above is entered in the Register as follows:—John, the son of John Dormer, Esq. of Assert, was born Nov. 5th, 1698. His mother's name was Cathera, youngest daughter to ye Rt. Honble. Sir Thomas Spencer, Lord of this Manner.† The above date is very ill written; it may be 1690.

⁸ This Margaret, dau. of Sir T. Spencer, does not appear to have inherited the estate with her sisters, nor is she mentioned upon the monument; she was illegitimate (see Baker's Northamptonshire). The entry of her burial is attested as follows:—Exd. by J. Cooper.

N.B.—It seems uncertain to which Jane the following entry in the Register may refer:—1658, Jane, the daughter of the Wpplal Sir Thomas Spencer, Bart, christened (this word erased), Dec. 25. Festo Nativitatis Domini Baptizata Londini. The three following are entered in the Register out of date, and are written over previous entries:—1661, the sume as Sir Thomas Spencer, Bart, was borne upon Palm Sunday and dyed the same year Sep. 6. Margaret, d. of Sir T. Spencer, was borne upon Good Friday, 1660. This is attested (N.B. 1662, the name illegible). 1670, Katherine, the d. of S. T. Spencer, was borne the 29 Sep. at three o'clock in the morning.

‘I am sure did enjoy this manner, from whom, or from his eldest son, John Durant of Cotsmore, it came to the Spencers.’

John Durant married, 1574, Katherine, daughter of John Lane of Walgrave, co. Northants, by whom he had several children, two being born at Yarnton:—

‘The 12th day of May Mr. John Durant, Esqre., had a child baptized named William, 1575.’ Reg.

‘1579, 20th March. Mr. John Durant, Esqre., had a child christened whose name was Fane.’

The name is no more mentioned in the parish books, and an interval of five years occurs before the Spencers come before us. It is possible that another family may have been for a short time at the Manor House from an entry in the Register.

‘1582. Mr. Edward Babbington had a child, Margaret¹.’

The old Manor House at this time must have been a very different building from the stately dwelling left by the Spencers in the following century; probably it was little more than the Grange used by the Monks with a hall in which to hold the Court Leet, and a house for the Bailiff; the church also was a smaller building than we now see it; the tower very possibly a wooden belfry, and doubtless all in a sad state of dilapidation.

THE SPENCERS IN YARNTON.

From the beginning of their history the Spencers have ever held a foremost rank in the politics of their time; they have always displayed a generosity in their housekeeping commensurate with their fortunes and their brilliant careers have been fitly crowned by the splendour of their tombs.

The churches of Brington in Northants, of Claverdon in Warwickshire, of Offley in Hertfordshire, and of Yarnton in Oxon, all bear witness to this.

It would be beyond our purpose to trace the early descent of the Spencers from the time of their first appearance in history; it will be sufficient for illustrating this account of the Yarnton branch of the family, to follow the lead they themselves have given us in the blazonry

¹ The Babingtons had Kiddington College. See Archives of Exeter. ‘Baptised at Kidlington, Elizabeth Babington, 1588.’ Kidlington Reg.

¹ The Babingtons had Kiddington Manor. In 1566 there was a Babington living at Kiddington. He gave a bond to Dr. Nele, Rector of Exeter

in their chapel windows, and to begin their pedigree with John Despencer, who was companion in arms to Henry V at the siege of Rouen.

This John Despencer married Alice Deverelle, and her arms are the earliest among the heiresses which are emblazoned in the family chapel at Yarnton.

The Spencers acquired large estates in the counties of Northants and Warwick, and many churches and houses in these counties were rebuilt by them. Throughout the reigns of Edward VI and Mary, and far into the reign of Elizabeth, the head of the house was Sir John Spencer of Althorp. For many years he served as Sheriff of his county of Northants, and was remarked for the liberal scale upon which he conducted his housekeeping; withal he loved retirement and a country life, and gave much of his time and attention to the rearing of vast flocks and herds of cattle. This pursuit of his gave occasion for a witty retort by his grandson to the Earl of Arundel. In a debate in the House of Lords the Earl being displeased with an argument used by Lord Spencer, exclaimed: 'When these things were doing your ancestors were keeping sheep!' to which Lord Spencer replied, 'When my ancestors were keeping sheep, yours were plotting treason!' which retort caused Spencer's detention for a time in the Tower¹.

This Sir John of Althorp, who was father to the first Sir William Spencer of Yarnton, was buried with his wife in the church of Brington, Northants.

The epitaph upon their monument will better show the connection between the different members of this family than any further explanation.

Epitaph in Brington Church:—

'Here lieth the bodie of Sir John Spencer, Knight, who married Katherine, one of the daughters of Sir Thomas Kitson², Knight, of Hengreave in the co. of Suffolk, Knight, which John and Katherine had issue. 1. Sir John Spencer, Knt. 2. Thomas Spencer of Claverdon in the co. Warwick, Esqre. 3. Sir William Spencer of Yarnton in the co. of Oxford, Knight. 4. Richard Spencer of Offley in the co. of Har., Esqre. 5. Edward Spencer, who died without issue. 6. Margaret, married to

¹ This account is taken from Collins' Peerage under the title of Marlborough.

² In an old bill, undated, in old writing, 'Item for Mr. Kitson's Preaching of three Sundays and his entertain-

ment, £2 10s. 0d.; Item for a tax charged upon the parsonage, £1 14s. 6d.; Item for repairing the house and lath and nails, 6s. 6d.; Item for fetches for the pigeons, 8s.'

Giles Allington of Horseth in the co. of Camb., Esqre., after married to Edward Eldrington, Esqre.

Elizabeth, married to George, Lord Hunsdon; Katherine, married to Sir Thomas Leigh of Stonlie in the co. War., Knight; Marie, wife to Sir Edward Aston of Tixall in the countie of Stafforde, Knt., which died without issue; Ann, married to William Lord Mountegle, who had noe issu by him, after married to Henry Lord Compton, now wife of Robert Sackville, Esqre., sonne and heire of Thomas, Lord Buckhurst, high Treasurer of England; Alice, married to Ferdinando Earle of Derby, now wife of Sir Thomas Egerton, Knight, Lord Keper of the Great Sele of England; which Sir John Spencer departed this life the 8 daie of November anno domini 1586.'

William, the fourth son of the above Sir John Spencer, married, some time before his father's death, Margaret Bowyer, the daughter of a London Alderman, and we may fairly suppose that her fortune had some share in the purchase of Yarnton. They had several children born before they came to Yarnton; the first entry of the name in the Register occurs in 1584 at the christening of a daughter, Ann, and to her succeed three more daughters. The father is here styled Mr. William Spencer, Esq., a mode of address at that time used for the son of a Knight. It was not until the year 1592 that William Spencer himself received the honour of Knighthood at the hands of Queen Elizabeth. The first use of his new title appears in December of that year when he signed his name as a witness to the marriage of his sister Ann, Lady Compton, to Mr. Robert Sackville, another brother-in-law, Sir Thomas Leigh, also signed the Register.

We learn from some proceedings at law that Sir William Spencer enclosed the common lands at Yarnton, and probably he laid out the Park which contained twelve yard-lands.

The enclosure won him the ill-will of his poorer neighbours, and with Mr. Power of Blechingdon, and Sir William Frere of Water Eaton, he was denounced by the men who planned the meeting at Enslow Bridge to sack the gentlemen's houses in the county¹.

The old Manor House was still standing, and in it the children grew up and married, and the grandchildren were born. The eldest daughter, Elizabeth, was the wife of Sir Thomas Russell, Knt., of Strensham, co. Worcester, and five children were born to them at Yarnton: the second daughter, Katherine, married at Yarnton Sir Henry Montague, Serjeant-at-Law, ancestor to the Dukes of Man-

¹ See Kidlington, 1595. Mention is made in this affair of Heath, Powell and Durbridge, of Yarnton.

chester. Upon the occasion of her marriage she is styled 'widow' in the Register, but there is no mention of her first marriage. Three of her children were christened here. Of the two sons of Sir William Spencer, we have no record of the second, George; but Thomas the elder married, some years before his parents' death, Margaret, daughter of Richard Brainthwaite, Barrister-at-Law. To this marriage two sons were born in Yarnton in the years 1608 and 1609, and the same two years saw Sir William and his Lady laid in their graves.

Upon the beautiful monument erected by their son to Sir William and Lady Margaret, all their children, with the exception of Ann, are depicted upon their knees praying for the eternal welfare of their parents. The religious feeling shown in these effigies is in strong and pleasing contrast to the Queen Anne paganism of the monument to the second Sir Thomas.

Thomas Spencer, son and heir of Sir William, was returned to Parliament for the Borough of Woodstock, 1 James I. Created a Baronet upon 29 June, 1611, by James I, and afterwards received the honour of knighthood at his hands at Whitehall. He appears to have been in possession of a large sum of ready money upon his succeeding to his estate.

The heavy sum of money extracted from the first baronets for the 'honour' of the title still left him rich enough to prove to posterity that he was a man of generous and refined tastes. The tower of the church, the Spencer Chapel with the beautiful perpendicular windows, the peal of bells¹, and the grand old house remain to show the spirit of the man, and that in his prosperity and care of his own family he did not overlook the services of God. It cannot altogether be said that he originated these things, the bells and consequently a tower to hold them, and the manor house existed before his time, but he rebuilt and remodelled them and defrayed the expenses. The tower is dated 1611, and the bells 1620, they bear the Spencer arms and are the only monument to Sir Thomas' memory—a truly fitting and lasting one to a Christian Knight. His death took place in 1622, his wife's not for many years later, 1656; they were both buried in the church.

The following is the certificate of death of Sir Thomas Spencer,

¹ These particulars are taken from the Register and the churchwardens' book. Alas! for human vanity. The churchwardens' account book gives us the

cost of recasting the great bell in 1619, and many other charges respecting the bells—are borne by the Parish.

made by Richard Brainthwaite one of the executors, 14th February, 1622, O. S.

‘Thomas Spencer, Knight and Baronet of Yarnton, co. Oxon, died 17th August, 1622, and was buried the next day following in a chappell erected by himself adjoining to the church of Yarnton. He married Margaret the daughter of Richard Branthwaite, Serjeant at Lawe, and had issue by her four sons and one daughter, viz. William, Knight and Baronet, son and heir, of the age of 14 or thereabouts; Thomas, second son, aged 13 or thereabouts; Richard, third son, aged 6 years or thereabouts; Edward, fourth son, aged 5 years or thereabouts; Anne Spencer, aged 8 years or thereabouts. Executors of the last will and testament were Dame Margaret, his wife; Sir William, his son and heir; Thomas Spencer of Claverdon, War., Esqre., uncle to the Defunct, and Richard Brainthwaite of Ringwood, co. Southants, Esqre.¹’

Besides the children mentioned in the above certificate, Sir Thomas had four daughters and a son who all died young. His widow remarried with Richard Butler, Viscount Mountgarret. Richard Brainthwaite appears to have acted as guardian to the children, who were all very young at their father's death. He presented a silver flagon to the church.

Of Richard Spencer, we find the following paper amongst the Royalist Composition Papers, 2nd series, vol. 23, p. 689:—

‘Richard Spencer of Yarnton in co. Oxford, Esqre.

His delinquency that he was in armes against the Parliament and in Oxford at the time of the Surrender, and is to have the benefit of those Articles as by Sir Thomas Fairfax' certificate of 24 June, 1646, doth appeare.

He hath neither taken the negative oath nor National Covenant, but prays to be exempted upon the Articles of Oxford and vote of the House of Commons pursuant. He compounds upon a Particular delivered in under his hand by which he doth submit to such Fine and by which it doth appeare:—

That he is seized of an Annuity of £100 per annum issuing out of the Manor of Yarrington in the co. of Oxford, to hold for tearme of his life. 23rd Dec., 1646.’

In Peshall's History of Oxford, St. Giles' Parish, p. 218:—

‘Recorded at Michaelmas Term 1662, of Mr. William Spencer, at the suit in the Chancery a legacy of 5*s.* a week for ever to be given to the Poor in Bread; and £20 a year for a lecture, with £50 in money to the Poor; formerly left to the Parish by Mr. Richard Brainthwaite to be paid out of the Manor of Ringwood, Hampshire. Richard Brainthwaite, Esq., gave to the use of the Holy Coñ a fair Coñ Table, one carpet of purple velvet

¹ Wood, E.

fringed, a fair silver flaggon, a silver chalice with a cover to it and a silver plate for the Bread; and to this church (St. Giles') the Benefactions as above.' See board in church.

'Richard Brainthwaite of Ringwood, co. of Southpton, Esq., died in St. Giles' Parish in the north suburb of Oxford, and was buried (I think) in the chancel of that church. He died 29th April, 1645¹.'

Sir William Spencer succeeded his father at fourteen years of age and was knighted in his twenty-first year, 1629, by the King at Oxford, of which the following account is given in Gutch, *Annals*, vol. 2, p. 367.

'An. Dni. 1629. 19th August the King and Queen came to Oxford from Berton by Abendon, but making no stay there went to Woodstock. They left Woodstock on the 27th and were met at Greenditch (now St. Margaret's Road) by the Mayor and Corporation, who presented the King with a fair gilt bowl and the Queen with a pair of rich gloves. After dinner at Merton College His Majesty conferred the Honour of Knighthood upon William Spencer of Yarnton, Esq., and he then returned to Berton.'

Sir William married Constance the eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Lucy of Charlcote in Warwickshire. From his great uncle he inherited Claverdon in the same county and appears to have usually lived there². The only record of him that we find in Yarnton is the burial of his daughter Margaret in 1642. His brother Thomas probably managed the estate here and took his place at the Manor House. Two children in the years 1633 and 1635, were born to Thomas Spencer at Yarnton, and the minuteness of the entries in the register, which record the day and the hour of their births, seems to point to a careful and loving hand which made them.

Besides his son and heir Thomas, Sir William left two daughters, married, one to Sir Edward Smith, the other to Sir Francis Keyt of Mickleton, co. Gloucester³.

About the year 1649, we find a notice of sale under the Commissioners of the Commonwealth, &c.

¹ Noticed also in Clark-Wood, vol. 2, p. 70. Wood, MSS. F. 4. Arms: or, two bends engrailed sable. Crest, an eagle rising upon a hillock.

² The portrait of Sir W. Spencer is at Kirtlington Park.

³ This Alice Keyt had two daughters—one of whom, says Wood, was stolen away by one Mason, a coachman, in 1680 (August). This incident may have

given rise to the ghost story at Yarnton. The tale is that one Gulliver appears in the little room over the entrance of the Manor House, accounted for by the tradition that Sir William Spencer had killed his coachman. Another member of the Keyt family married Brent of Thrup, and others were established at Woodstock.

‘Annual rent of all manner of tithes of a meadow called Burley mead in Yardington, in tenure of Sir Thomas Spencer, Knt. and Bart. vs.¹’

The second Sir Thomas Spencer, son of the above William, married very early in life the daughter of Sir Thomas Garrard of Lamer, co. Hertford. In his twentieth year he was already father of two children, who were born in London, where he lived for some time in the parish of St. Martin-le-Field. The civil wars passed during his absence, and the Manor House at Yarnton was given up for use as a hospital for the sick and wounded. This is evident from an entry in the register recording the marriage in 1643 of the ‘Commissary of the sick and wounded here.’ The numerous entries of the burial of men from divers regiments here refer doubtless to the poor fellows who were sheltered and tendered in the hospital after the many skirmishes in the neighbouring villages. Happy they were to find a home and Christian burial instead of lying where they fell and being put under the sod on Campsfield or elsewhere as were many of their comrades.

On St. Thomas’ Day, 1656, the old Lady Mountgarret was privately buried. Her grandson, Sir Thomas, returned home shortly after; he buried here one of his daughters in 1658, but the glory of the old hospitality was gone. The house was probably in a ruinous state, and the family resources no doubt crippled by the late wars, so part of the mansion was pulled down. This we learn from Anthony à Wood, who, writing in 1678, says:—

‘great part of this ancient family seat was pulled down about 16 years ago².’

Sir Thomas was a considerable benefactor to Woodstock, which borough he represented in the Convention Parliament which restored the King to his throne; he was elected two years later High Steward of Woodstock in the place of Lieutenant-General Charles Fleetwood, son-in-law to the ‘Protector³.’ Certain charities were also bequeathed by him to the same town.

In 1662, Constance Spencer was born at Yarnton, and the parents evidently took this occasion of entering in the parish register the names of two children who had been born elsewhere. Their names are written over other names which are thereby obliterated, and of the two the younger one, a son, is written before his sister who was a year older. Another daughter, Katherine, probably born else-

¹ Fee Farm Rents, Roll 24, No. 183, Public Record Office.

² Wood’s Life, Bliss, p. 205.

³ Dr. V. Thomas, Account of Yarnton.

where in 1670, is entered immediately after her sister Constance, irrespective of dates and effacing other names. The same thing occurs in the case of a grandson, John Dormer.

The remaining years of his life Sir Thomas Spencer spent at Yarnton, and there is remaining evidence of his going to meet the King in Oxford at the head of a troop of Militia in 1680. The only son who survived his infancy was William, he is noticed as joining his father in a Charity Deed for Woodstock. He died in his youth, and his father followed him to the grave six months later at the early age of forty-six, on the 6th March, 1684.

Upon the death of Sir Thomas, the baronetcy devolved upon his cousin Sir Thomas Spencer of Eardington, co. Salop, and has since become extinct.

Four daughters, co-heiresses, survived their father. Jane, married to Robert Spenser, Viscount Tiveot, brother to the Earl of Sunderland; Constance, married to George Marwood; Elizabeth, married secondly to Sir Francis Basset; and Katherine, wife of John Dormer.

It is told of

‘Mr. Dormer that he ran a man through the body with his sword in Woodstock Park, while Blenheim was building, because he took the wall or the upper hand with his Lady. He fled to Yarnton without his hat, and being supplied by the butler, he made his escape¹.’

Hearne gives Mr. Dormer a very bad character, and calls him a young gentleman of wicked and profligate life, of no conscience nor religion. He gave himself up to justice before the Assizes and was committed to Oxford gaol. By the connivance of his relation, Judge Dormer, who was on this circuit, he was brought in guilty of manslaughter².

Lady Teviot, died in 1686, and her share of the property appears to have been separated from her sisters’ and became the property of the Swetes, the remaining three-fourths were purchased by Sir Robert Dashwood in 1695. Of this transaction, Anthony à Wood tells us:—

‘Mr. Richard Watkins, Rector of Wishwood in Warwick, told me, that Sir Robert Dashwood, sometime High Sheriff, had purchased the mannour of Yarnton of the Heirs and Executors of Sir Thomas Spencer, for 31 thousand pounds, about three weeks since³.’

¹ Gough, 91.

² Hearne’s Coll., vol. 3, p. 25 ‘Historical Society’; also ‘Pardon for the manslaughter of Sir Richard Kennedy,

Baronet,’ for John Dormer, of Yarnton. Dep. Keep. of Records, 31st Report, p. 497.

³ Wood, E, dated 25 Aug. 1695.

Dame Jane Spencer, for some years having been an invalid and unable to walk, applied to Dr. Radcliffe for advice and was entirely restored to health by his means. This cure was much to the advantage of the doctor, and procured him patients and renown. For many years Lady Spencer lived among her tenants and took pleasure in their prosperity. She used to be carried in her sedan chair to the great trees in the village to watch the people dance and amuse themselves. The sale of the property did not affect her, the new proprietor not coming into the enjoyment of his purchase until 'the Honoured Lady Spencer' was laid in the church, 6th May, 1712.

A year before the death of Sir Thomas Spencer, a lease was taken from Christ Church of the Rectory of Cassington and of the Coppice in Bladon called 'Burleigh¹'; this was renewed to Lady Spencer in 1711, and was assigned by John Dormer, grandson and executor of Lady Spencer's, to Dr. Clarke, Doctor of Laws, at Bladon (1717). Their tenant in the Cassington parsonage house was Francis Greenaway, an attorney².

INSCRIPTIONS UPON THE SPENCERS' TOMBS.

The monument of Sir William Spencer the first.

'Syr William Spencer, Knight, Lord of this Manour, third sonne of Syr John Spencer of Althrop in the co. Northants, &c., &c., &c.'

'They both as they lived virtuoulsley and laudably, soe in assured Hope to live eternally in Christ, ended this transitory Life. He the 18th December, 1609. She the 19th June, 1608.'

'Syr Thomas Spencer, sonne and heir, married Margaret, daughter of Richard Branthwait, serjeant at lawe.

George Spencer, second sonne.

Elizabeth, eldest daughter, wyfe to Syr Thomas Russell of Strensham in the countie of Worcester, Knt.

Katherine, second daughter, wyfe to Syr Henry Montague, Knt., the King's serjeant at lawe.

'Marie, third daughter, wyf to Syr Maximilian Dalison of Haling in the co. of Kent, Knt.

Alice, fourth daughter, wyfe to Syr Thomas Colvile of Newton in co. of Cambridge.

Margaret, fifth daughter, wyfe to Syr Thomas Woodwarde of Evesham in the co. of Worcester, Knt.'

¹ Deputy Keeper of Records, Forty-first Report, p. 548.

² Wood, MSS. E.

Upon the south wall of the chapel.

'In hopes of a joyful resurrection here lies Jane, Viscountess Tiveot, eldest daughter of the second Sir Thomas Spencer, Baronet, of this place, and wife, &c.

Died 10th June, 1689, aged 32.

Immodicis brevis est aetas et rara senectus.'

The above is a white marble tablet, with two oval shields connected by a viscount's coronet, below it. The Spencer arms upon each.

Westward of the above, another mural tablet bearing a shield with the arms of Mordaunt with a crescent for difference, surmounted by the crest, out of an earl's coronet, a Moor's head affronté, proper, vested or, wreathed gold and gules.

'Honorabilis Margaretta Mordaunt, Thomae Spencer hujusce loci Baronetti filia carissima, honorabilis Harrici Mordaunt, comitis Petriburgensis ac Monmothae fratris, uxor dilectissima, Caroli, Harrici, Johannis, Thomae, Herberti, Elizabethae nec non Margarettae mater indulgentissima, cujus in memoriam exiguum hoc ingentis amoris sui monumentum non sine acerrimo dolore posuit conjux moestissimus, obiit 11 Cal. Aug. an. Dom. M.D.C.C.VI. aetatis xxxii.'

To the same person upon the floor, the following :—

'Here lyeth the body of the Honble. Margaret Mordaunt, who died ye 22nd day of July, 1706, aged 32 years.'

The above Margaret does not appear in the pedigree of the Spencers, nor is she included among the co-heiresses of her father, nor are the Spencer arms emblazoned upon her monument. In a pedigree of the family in Baker's Northamptonshire, she is said to have been illegitimate.

Upon the floor of the Spencer aisle, the three following :—

'Here lies Dame Jane Spencer, the relict of Sir Thomas Spencer, Bart., of this place, who died April 30th, 1712, aged 74.'

'Dame Elizabeth Gerard, late wife of Francis Basset, Esq. her second husband, who died April 13, 1705, aged 41 years.'

'Catherine, fourth daughter and co-heiress of Sir Thomas Spencer, Baronet, who was a second time married to the Honble. George Mordaunt, youngest son to John Lord Mordaunt, Viscount of Ailon and Baron of Rigate. Died 26th May, 1714.'

Above are the arms of Mordaunt, argent, a chevron between three estoiles sable, over all Spencer upon an escutcheon of pretence.

Inscription on the monument of the second Sir Thomas Spencer and his family :—

‘Dedicated to the immortal memory of Sir Thomas Spencer alias Spenser’ . . . here all the children are enumerated . . . ‘Sir Thomas was of a very ancient and noble extraction descended from Robert Despencer, a Baron in ye time of Will ye Conq^r. and nearly allied to the right Honourable family of the Spencers, Barons of Wormleighton and Earls of Sunderland. He was a most accomplished gentleman, truely great, generous, hospitable and charitable. By his last will he hath charged an enclosed Ground in this Parish called Windmill Field with the payment of ten pounds a year for ever to the Uses following, (viz.) Three pounds to be paid yearly to successive Vicars of this Towne upon this condition that they shall every year in this chapel on his birthday, which was New Years Day, on the day of his death and on the day of the death of Dame Jane his wife, read the Morning Service as directed in the Liturgy of the Church of England, and seaven Pounds a year to be applied to the repairing and beautifying this Chapel and the Monuments of his family if need be, otherwise toward the relief and support of the Poor of this Parish at the direction of the Vicar and of the Church Wardens for the time being.’

A beautiful marble tablet representing a female figure upon the west wall :—

‘In Memory of Charlotte Augusta, Duchess of Marlborough, a Princess of the Holy Roman Empire, whose mortal remains are deposited in the chapel at Blenheim Palace. Born 25th Nov., 1818; died 20 April, 1850. (Here follows a verse, pious reflection.) This marble is dedicated to a beloved daughter by her deeply afflicted mother, Emily, Dowager Viscountess Ashbroke, &c.’

The armorial bearings in the Spencer aisle call for some remark inasmuch as we find two shields used by the Spencers. The original coat of the family was that charged with the frets, but another came to be used by them under the following circumstances. Henry Spencer of Badby, married the heiress of the Lyncolne family; it is proved by his will dated 1476, that he bore the arms of Spencer; but his four sons, as appears by certain seals, abandoned their father's coat and assumed that of their mother, she being an heiress; viz. a cross charged with five estoiles. This coat continued to be used during two generations of the family, after which John Spencer of Wormleighton, the great grandson of Henry of Badby, perceiving that these arms came through the mother, and apparently being ignorant of his right to use the ancient arms of Spencer, laid aside the Lyncolne arms and

adopted the following: Azure, a fesse ermine between three sea-mews' heads erased, argent.

This fact is attested by certain writings bearing date 20 Henry VII, to which these arms are appended upon wax.

The sea-mews were borne by the two succeeding generations until Sir John of Althorp, and his brother Sir William of Yarnton, who died in 1609, reassumed the ancient coat of Spencer¹.

We shall discuss the emblazonings in the windows and upon the monuments in another place.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REGISTER; THE SPENCERS.

1584. Mr. William Spencer, Esq., had a child christened Ann. 4th Oct.

1588. Do. Do. Do. Mary. 17th June.

1590. Do. Do. Do. Alyce. 1st Sep.

1592. Do. Do. Do. Margaret. 23rd Sep.

1592, 4th Dec. Mr. Robert Sackville and Ann Ladie Compton, in prae-sentia Sir Thos. Leigh, Knight, Sir William Spencer, Knt., Thomas Spencer, Esq., and John Sydley, Esq., the Lady Spencer, Mrs. Mary Aylworth and Ann Cotton were married.

1599. Mr. Thomas Russell, Esq., had a daughter christened Margaret.

1601. Mr. Henry Montague, Esq., and Mrs. Katherine Spencer (widow), married.

1601, 26 June. William Russell, the sonne of Mr. Thomas Russell of Strensham, baptised.

1602, June. Ann, daughter of Mr. Thomas Russell, baptised.

1603, June. Edward Montague, son of Henry Montague, Esq., baptised.

1603, October. Thomas Russell, son of Sir Thomas Russell, Knight, was baptised, and the first of the reign of our sovereign Lord King James.

1605, April. Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Russell, Knight, baptised.

1606. James Montague, the son of Sir Henry Montague, baptised.

1608, June 19. The Lady Margaret Spencer, the wife of Sir Will. Spencer, Knt., was buried.

1608, July. Lucie Montague, the daughter of Sir H. Montague, Knt., baptised.

1608, July. William Spencer, son of Mr. Thomas Spencer, Esq., baptised.

1608, Oct. 10. Sir Maximilian Dalison of Hawling² in the co. of Kent, Knight, and Mary Spencer, ye daughter of Sir William Spencer of Eardington in ye co. of Oxon, were married.

1609, Oct. 22. Thomas Spencer, son of Mr. Thomas Spencer, Esq., was baptised.

1609, Nov. 19. Sir William Spencer, Knight, buried.

¹ Wood, E.

² Halling.

1611. John Spencer, the son of Mr. Thomas Spencer, Esq., was baptised.

1612, 30 July. Elizabeth Spencer, daughter of the right worshipful Sir Thomas Spencer, Knight and Baronet, was baptised.

1613, 14 Sep. Alice, daughter of Sir Thos. Spencer, Knt. and Bart., bap. and buried next day.

1614, Oct. 2. Ann, daughter of the Honble. Sir Thos. Spencer, Knt. and Bart., baptised.

1615, May 19. John, son of Do., buried.

1615, Dec. 3. Margaret, daughter of Do., baptised; buried 1st May, 1618.

1616, Jan. 2. Richard, son of Do., baptised.

1618, July 6. Edward, son of Do., baptised.

1619, June 15. Catherine, daughter of Do., baptised; buried in 1621.

1622, August 17. The right Honble. Sir Thomas Spencer, Knt. and Bart., buried.

1633. Margarite, daughter of Thomas Spencer, Esq., was christened 17 June (nat. 5 cir. 3 in aur.).

1635. William, sonne of Thomas Spencer, Esq., was christened June 11 (nat. Ma. 29 cir. h. 4 po. sat.).

1642. Margarite, daughter of Sir William Spencer, Knt. and Bart., buried Mar. 19 cir. 5 n-m, 17-d.

1661. (The sunne to Sir Thomas Spencer, Bart., was borne uppon Palm Sunday 1661, and dyed the same year, Sept. 6.

1660. Margaret, the daughter of Sir Thos. Spencer, was borne uppon Good Friday, 1660. To this entry, in brackets, 'N. B. . . . 1662.')

These two entries are inserted between other names and out of date.

1662, 3 Oct. Constance, the daughter of Do., baptised.

1670. Katherine, the daughter of Do., was born the 29th Sep. att three o'clock in the morning, 1670. (This name also inserted out of date.)

1664. Elizabeth, fil. Thos. Spencer, nat. 22 Jan.

1665. Thomas Spencer, son of Sir Thomas Spencer, was born April, and dyed the same year.

1646. Elizabeth Smith, servant to the Right Honble. Lady Mountgarret, buried.

1656. The Right Honble. Margaret Lady Mountgarret, formerly wife to Sir Thomas Spencer, Bart., buried privately on St. Thomas' Day.

1658. Jane, daughter of ye Right Wppful Sir Thos. Spencer, Bart., christened (this word erased). Dec. 25, Festo nativitatis Domini Baptizat Londini.

This entry is interpolated amongst the burials.

1683. Mr. William Spencer, son of Sir Thomas Spencer, Knt. and barronite, Lord of this manner, was buried Sept. 13th, 1683.

1684. The Right Worshipful Sir Thomas Spencer, buried 12 March.

Note that the day of his birth was New Year's Day, and that the day of his death, 6th March, upon which days prayers are to be read in the chapel belonging to the family and also upon the day of his lady's death according to his will.

1698 (?). John, the son of John Dormer, Esq., of Assert, was borne Nov. 5th, 1698 (?), his mother's name was Cattern, youngest daughter to ye Rt. Honble. Sir T. Spencer, Lord of this Manner.

This entry is put between two others of 1693, and is written *over* others. The date is illegible.

1703². Margaret, daughter of Mr. Harry Mordaunt, baptised March 2.

1689. The Right Worshippful the Lady Tyviot, eldest daughter of Sir T. Spencer, Lord of this Manner, buried June 13.

1705. The Lady Garret, late wife to Mr. Basset, Esq., and daughter to Sir Thomas Spencer, Lord of this manner, buried April 13th.

1706. Mrs. Margaret Mordaunt, July 23 buried. (Exd. pr Jon. Cooper.)

1712. The Honred. Lady Spencer was buried May 5.

1714. The Honble. Mrs. Mordaunt was buried May 28.

THE MANOR HOUSE.

The large mansion built by Sir Thomas Spencer near the site of the old house or Grange belonging to the monks of Rewley was dismantled after the Restoration. Part of it was taken down according to Wood about the year 1662. The state it presented in 1801 may be read in the following extract from Dr. Symond's MSS¹:—

‘The Entrance to the Manor House was from the East thro’ an arched gateway. Part of the Columns, plinths, and capitals are scattered about. The Entrance to the House is a large door way ornamented with pilasters in the form of Obelisks and a pediment, within which are the arms of Spencer, which leads to a Vestibule which in its present state is very irregular. On the left is a lofty room with one window, over the chimney are carved the Spencer arms; beyond which is the door opening into the Hall, which is a very lofty room. On one side wainscot, carved over which are projecting frames of stone carved with scroll-work, in which are portraits of the Roman Emperors. Over the chimney, which is very large, the arms of Spencer (*sic*) (in reality the royal arms of Elizabeth's time, supporters, a lion and dragon) which are proportionate to the size of the chimney. Opposite to which hangs the Portrait of a middle-aged man, one of the Spencers. The west side of the house is regular, the windows uniform, and part of the stone cornice remains. It is said that the house was a story higher, but probably only an embattled Parapet.’ (Signed, H. Hinton, 1801.)

¹ Vol. 4, p. 16.

It is said that the dancing gallery and a great portion of the materials of the house were taken to Kirtlington House.

The little chamber over the vestibule is pierced by two loopholes for firing from in defence of the entrance. It is here that 'Gulliver's Ghost,' according to the popular mind, holds his court. May this not refer to Sir William and the coachman who abducted Sir William's grand-daughter Elizabeth Keyt in 1680¹? The gardens were laid out in stone terraces, and the stables, &c., formed wings inclosing the courtyard as at Water Eaton with the parish church upon the north side. The house has long been let with the manor farm, and is shorn of all its glory, standing alone in the farmyard.

THE SPENCER AISLE IN THE CHURCH.

This beautiful chapel built by Sir Thomas Spencer as the mausoleum of his family, is 31 feet long by 18 ft. 9 in. wide.

Three large perpendicular windows filled with armorial bearings light the chapel, and a handsome carved oak screen² corresponding to the doors under the tower, encloses it from the church.

The two principal monuments are very different in taste and feeling, and the half-century of years which separates them is sufficient to account for the wide disparity of style by which they are characterised.

The earliest, which lies to the east, is what is known as a 'bedstead monument' elaborately carved and painted. Upon the canopy is a shield containing seven quarterings, surmounted by a close helmet in profile with mantle and crest. The quarterings are—1st, Spencer; 2nd, Spencer *b*; 3rd, Deverelle; 4th, Lincoln; 5th, Warsteade; 6th, Graunt; 7th, Rudings. The crest, out of a ducal coronet or, a griffin's head argent, beaked gules, between two wings³.

Upon the summit of the canopy is the same crest affronté, collared with a 'gemel'⁴ gules. On each side in the spandrils of the arch are—1st the same quarterings, no crest; 2nd the same, impaling Bowier.

The following shields are arranged around the basement of the monument: 1st (at the west end), Spencer; 2nd, Spencer *b*; 3rd, De-

¹ See pedigree, and see *ante*, p. 290, note.

² Possibly the remains of the ancient Rood Loft.

³ The whole of the arms in the chapel are mentioned in the pedigree.

⁴ A twin bar.

verelle; 4th, Lincoln; 5th, Warsteade; 6th, Graunt; 7th, Rudings, and at the foot, Spencer and Bowier impaled.

The names of Sir William Spencer and Margaret his wife are inscribed at the back of the monument. The two figures lie side by side, the lady on a higher level than her husband. Upon the base are sculptured the children, two sons and five daughters kneeling, and a long inscription telling their names and their marriages. One daughter is without her coif.

This monument must have been erected at the same time as the chapel by the son of the above Sir William.

The second monument, which occupies a position to the west of the preceding, is a beautiful piece of sculpture in pure white marble without colouring, except upon the armorial bearings. From the style of the workmanship and the composition of the group it has been attributed to Rysbach, the well-known sculptor¹ of the large group in Blenheim chapel.

Rysbach is said to have grouped his figures in the form of a pyramid, and this plan is very conspicuous upon the monument in question. Upon a pedestal raised above the other figures stands Sir Thomas Spencer, a step lower on either side and facing him are Lady Jane and her only son William; still lower, in a sitting posture and keeping the pyramidal form, are two ladies, and beneath them, still sitting, two other ladies, the four daughters and co-heiresses of their father. Next to each is her husband's shield impaling Spencer, and the centre of the basement is occupied by a long inscription which will be found in its place, p. 295.

The arms here are the following:—(1) upon the canopy a shield with eight quarters arranged 2, 2, 2, 2. These are the same as on the canopy of the first monument, with 1st repeated to make the number even; they are impaled with argent, on a fesse sable, a lion passant of the field, for Garrard. The baronet's badge upon the centre. Motto: 'Dieu defende le Droit.' Crest as before, collared.

Upon the western pilaster: (2) Spencer impaled with the same and ensigned with a viscount's coronet, for Robert Spencer, Viscount Tiveot, and Jane his wife. (3) Impaled, the dexter side again impaled; i. argent, saltire gules, Gerard: ii. barry-wavy of six argent and azure, Basset²: 3rd, Spencer; for Elizabeth who married

¹ Dr. Vaughan Thomas supposes this.

² For her two husbands Gerard and Basset.

Sir Samuel Gerard, Knt., and afterwards Francis Basset, Esq., of Tihedy, co. Cornwall.

Upon the eastern pilaster: (4) Gules, a chevron ermine between three goats' heads erased argent; (a very small label of three points for difference); Marwood; impaling Spencer (which coat is also on an escutcheon of pretence upon the dexter) for Constance who married George Marwood, Esq. (5) Azure, ten billets, 4, 3, 2, 1, or, on a chief of the last, a demi-lion rampant issuant, sable, armed and langued, gules, for Dormer; impaling Spencer (which coat is also on an escutcheon of pretence over the dexter) for Catherine Spencer who married John Dormer. She afterwards married the Honourable George Mordaunt, and the date of her second marriage would fix the date of this monument as it was probably erected before that event, seeing that the Mordaunt arms are not shown upon it.

Upon the south wall, at the east end, is a marble tablet to Jane, Viscountess Tiveot, wife of Robert Spencer, Viscount Tiveot (second son of William, Lord Spencer of Wormleighton). The two oval shields connected by a coronet each bear the Spencer arms. The inscription, page 294.

Westward of the last is another mural tablet in honour of the Honourable Margaret Mordaunt. The arms are Mordaunt alone, argent, a chevron between three estoiles sable, on the chevron a crescent for difference. Crest of Mordaunt. Inscription, page 294.

Upon the west wall, a beautiful bas-relief representing a mourning female figure. This is to the memory of a Duchess of Marlborough, who is buried in Blenheim chapel. Inscription at page 295.

Upon the floor are four flat blue stones; to Lady Spencer who died in 1712, and her two daughters, Elizabeth Lady Gerard, and Catherine Mordaunt, and the fourth to Margaret Mordaunt. Inscriptions, page 294.

THE WINDOWS IN THE SPENCER AISLE.

In the five lights of the east window, and in the tracery of the head are fourteen shields of arms including the family connections in wearisome repetition.

Eight shields are in the interstices of the tracery, each held by an angel: (1) Spencer with a mullet or for difference; (2) The same; (3) Deverelle; (4) Spencer of Wormleighton, called Spencer *b*; (5) Warsteade; (6) Graunt; (7) destroyed, probably Rudings; (8) Spencer.

Below, one in each light, are:—

I. Of eight quarters, viz.: 1st, Spencer; 2nd, Spencer *b*; 3rd, Deverelle; 4th, Lincoln; 5th, Warsteade; 6th, Graunt; 7th, Rudings; 8th, Spencer; impaled with four quarterings, viz. (1) and (4) Kitson; (2) and (3) counter-quartered; i and iv paly of six argent and azure, on a chief gules, three bezants for Donnington; ii and iii argent, a chevron between three mullets gules for Pollard. These are the arms of Sir John Spencer of Althorp, Knt., and Katherine his wife, the parents of the first Sir William Spencer of Yarnton.

II. Of seven parts, four in chief and three in base: viz. 1st, Spencer; 2nd, Spencer *b*; 3rd, Deverelle; 4th, Lincoln; 5th, Warsteade; 6th, Graunt; 7th, Rudings; impaled with four quarters: viz. (1) and (4) Bowier; (2) and (3) sable, three pointed spades, two and one argent, ironed or, for Knipersley¹.

These are the arms of Sir William Spencer, Knt., first Lord of the Manor of Yarnton, and of Margaret his wife.

III. Impaled; Dexter side, same as last; sinister side, Brainthwaite. These are the arms of Sir Thomas Spencer, 1st Baronet, and Margaret his wife.

IV. Deverelle. V. Lincoln.

Below are, Spencer *b* twice over, and a large shield of six coats conjoined palywise, viz. 1st, Warsteade; 2nd, Graunt; 3rd, Rudings; 4th, Spencer; 5th, Donnington (quartered as before with Pollard), and 6th, Kitson. These are so strangely assorted as to give occasion to suppose that they have been put together by some ignorant person.

In this window is preserved a relic of ancient glass, a head in dark flesh tones with the legend 'Mother of God have pity on me.'

¹ The arms of Knipersley were quartered by the Bowyers, who originally sprang from Knipersley, co. Stafford.

They settled in Sussex in time of Henry IV. See Dallaway's *Sussex*, vol. 1, p. 61.

In the easternmost window, on the south wall, are three coats: 1st, Warsteade; 2nd, Graunt; 3rd, Rudings.

In the westernmost window, three shields as follows:—

I. Of seven parts; the first, Sir William Spencer impaling Bowier which is quartered with Deverelle and Lincoln. It will be evident that these are put together wrongly: for Bowier could not rightly quarter the former connections of Spencer.

II. Rudings with a mullet gules for difference; crest (on an esquire's helmet with mantle gules, lined argent) an arm embowed, the elbow to sinister side, in armour proper, purfled or, holding in the hand a wivern's head erased argent, langued gules.

III. A shield holding a confused mass of all the foregoing quarterings.

Upon the corbels of the roof are the following:—

On the north side, beginning at the west end: 1st, Lincoln; 2nd, hidden by the summit of the monument; 3rd, Rudings; 4th Deverelle; 5th, Spencer. On the south side, beginning at the east: 6th, Deverelle; 7th, Lincoln; 8th, Spencer; 9th, Spencer *b*; 10th, Spencer.

In this chapel prayers are said on each of the anniversaries mentioned in the will of the second Sir Thomas, viz. upon his birthday, 1st January, upon the day of his death, 6th March, and upon the anniversary of Dame Jane Spencer, his widow, 30th April.

CHAPTER VIII.

NIGHT MARCH OF KING CHARLES THROUGH YARNTON.

(This account is taken from Sir Edward Walker's History of the Rebellion, p. 20, Bod. i. 2, 7, Jur.; also from Dr. V. Thomas' Night March of King Charles, Oxford, 1853.)

IF all records had been silent regarding Yarnnton the events of the memorable and 'never to be forgotten night' would suffice to give it a place in history. When the details of this movement are examined, the prompt action of the King, the silent obedience of his followers, the staunch loyalty of the people through whose midst he passed, and the success which followed it, are considered, all these circumstances unite in rendering this march one of the most skilful and remarkable pieces of strategy ever recorded.

To understand the reason for the course decided upon by the King it will be necessary to look back and briefly recapitulate the course of events which so nearly culminated in making the King, his sons and his whole army prisoners in Oxford.

Early in the year 1644 the Committee of War sitting at Westminster resolved to close hostilities if possible, by besieging Oxford and capturing the King. To this end large reinforcements were raised and sent to the armies of Essex and Waller to enable them to carry out this plan. Instructions were sent to Lord Essex that he should move up the Cherwell, and to Sir William Waller that he should take the Berkshire side of the City and after crossing the Isis that both should join their forces upon the north side of Oxford and thus complete the circle of investment. The result of this attempt, as far as the fight at Gosford Bridge is concerned, is told in the history of Kidlington. The attack was renewed during three days and ended

in the repulse of the Parliament men, and left the passes of the river, and the mills along its course, in the hands of the Royal party. In the meanwhile Waller had succeeded in crossing the Isis at Newbridge and in occupying Abingdon with 5000 men. This news was brought to the King on Sunday the 2nd June, who without delay assembled his Council at Woodstock and issued orders to the troops to withdraw from Newbridge, to abandon the passes of the Cherwell and to meet him at Yarnton. The immediate result of this action was the occupation of Kidlington by Essex, and of Ensham by Waller. The King was fully aware of the urgency of the position in which he was placed and silently determined upon his course.

That same evening he returned upon the road to Oxford and lay all night at Wolvercote in his coach. Early on Monday morning the infantry joined him from Gosford and all marched together close up to the city walls, where they lay until evening, being provisioned from the public magazines. At six o'clock the same morning the King returned to Christ Church, and putting his private affairs in order he ordered a large body of men to march towards Abingdon in order to draw off the attention of the enemy. The ruse succeeding, the time for action was come, a few hours more and all would have been too late. The King recalled the division from the Abingdon road and desired the council, his servants and his own body-guard to be ready at the sound of the trumpet.

Sufficient provision was made for the good maintenance of the city, the Duke of York being left behind with the assurance from his father of his speedy return, and the King joined his troops at 9 o'clock that evening. So little was his Majesty's intention guessed at, that it was remarked 'that contrary to expectation' he passed through the north gate with Prince Charles, the Duke of Richmond and his immediate attendants.

The word being passed 2500 musketeers were drawn from the main body and formed without colours, under the following leaders: the Earl of Brentford, fourth Lieutenant-General; Sir Jacob Astley, Serjeant-Major-General; Colonel Blagge, Colonel Lisle, Sir Bernard Astley, Colonels of Tertias; Colonel Lloyd, Quarter-Master-General, and divers others. These joined the cavalry which was in St. Giles' Field and, the horse being in the van, his Majesty led them out towards Wolvercote. Quickly and silently they crossed Port Meadow, entering it by Heyfield's Hut Lane, to the Toll Bridge at Lower Wolvercote which presented the first check. That passed, the way lay

along a narrow lane now under water, called Trigg's Lane, into Picksey Mead. The old ford at the north of Picksey was at that time available and by it they passed into Oxhay. The ancient village road through Yarnton was now before them and along it, past the manor house then probably used as a hospital, and past the church, their way lay through the village to 'Frogwelldown Lane.' About two miles further brought them to the bridge over the Evenlode beyond Woodstock Park and by this time it was daylight. The anxiety of the King must have increased as they neared this bridge as the whole success of their undertaking depended upon finding this free, but so true to him were the country people and so quick and silent was the march of his men that no intelligence was carried to the enemy who upon either hand were within three miles of the line of march. Once over the bridge all danger was at an end, and by nine in the morning the army was drawn up undisturbed upon Handborough Heath. At Bletchingdon that morning, Essex looked out towards Oxford and seeing the royal ensign still flying in the breeze concluded that all was safe and the King still within his grasp. Later on in the day both Essex and Waller received the tidings of the King's escape and prepared to follow, but only succeeded in catching up the stragglers at Burford. A severe storm of hail, thunder and lightning burst upon the Roundhead party while they were crossing Campsfield and continued for two hours; this so confused them, beating in their faces, hampered as they were with baggage, that the pursuit was futile. The King's army was at Minster Lovel when the storm surprised them but they continued their way unmolested, Waller being too far in the rear to inconvenience them seriously. By a succession of marches and counter-marches his Majesty succeeded in out-manceuvring his pursuer and returned to Oxford seventeen days after he had quitted it.

Upon this memorable march 6000 men, principally cavalry, accompanied the King, but they were unencumbered with baggage or artillery.

A few months later, we read 'that the residue of the King's army lyes about Woodstock,' and the whole winter was passed in reconnaissances and skirmishes on the north side of Oxford, a smart encounter taking place at Rousham in the beginning of March, 1644-5¹. The King remained in Oxford during the next spring, but in May he

¹ Perfect Diurnal, 11th Nov. 1644, Nos. 67 and 83.

moved to Woodstock and on to Stow in the Wold, returning again in November. The following April, the last and fatal journey was taken with only two companions, which ended in the catastrophe at Newark.

The thunder-storm upon the 4th June is mentioned in a paper of the time 'Mercurius Rusticus.'

'There fell upon Campsfield near Woodstock a prodigious violent storm of hail and rain accompanied with terrible thunder and lightning for the space of two hours; some of the hail was as big as a nutmeg.'

Dr. Thomas in his 'Night March of King Charles' points out the route the army must have taken upon this occasion. His long experience and knowledge of the locality made him peculiarly fit to throw light upon the subject. Yarnton lies about midway between Oxford and Handborough Bridge, and from the latter place to Yarnton was formerly a long green lane of about two and a half miles called 'Froggledown Lane'; it was stopped at the entrance to Cassington parish when the enclosure was made in 1800. This was the common road to market for the country folks. At the bottom of the 'Mead lane' leading into 'Oxhay mead' there still stands an old building, now a cowhouse, which was at the time of our history a public-house. This fact alone shows that this lane was a much frequented road. The words of the historian then 'passed through Yarnton' literally meant that the King and his troops, about 6000 men, marched the length of the village and parish.

N.B.—It does not seem probable that the forty soldiers who died at Yarnton fell in any of the skirmishes around the village. From the dates, most of them in 1643, it would seem as if they had been brought here to be nursed at the temporary hospital established in the manor house.

THE MEADOWS¹.

The meadows watered by the Isis constitute a valuable portion of the parish of Yarnton. The large meadow known as 'Pixey,' containing 200 acres, forms an island enclosed by the double stream. 'Oxhay or Oxhurst' lies west of 'Pixey' and 'West Mead' still further west.

In the 18th and 19th Henry II, Bernard of St. Wallery gave 'Pixey' to the nuns of Godstow.

¹ Richard, Earl of Cornwall, gave Abbey. See Chartulary of Osney, 'Commons' in Erdington to Osney p. 38. Also supra, pp. 109 and 210.

'Et insulam inter duos pontes et Pechesiam et quinque solidos ad falcandum idem pratum ad festum St. Johannis Baptistae et 12 denarios in Wulgaricote et 2s. in Erdintune¹.'

The name 'Pixey' has been said to refer to the opportunities presented for fishing from this meadow, but there does not appear to be any sufficient authority for the derivation.

In More's Collections for Godstow we find that

'A mede by "Aristotle's well," called Oxhey, was given to Roysa, Abbess of Godstow, while Nicholas of Kingstone Bagpuze was Mayor².'

Also that Reginald de St. Wallery gave the 'Fishing and all appurtenances.' Aristotle's well is at the corner of Kingston road and Heyfield's Hut near Oxford, and according to this account the whole meadows extending from here to Yarnton were called 'Oxhey'; 'Pixie' would be simply one portion of 'Oxhey'; the mead still retaining that name lying to the north of it.

The meadows are known as the 'Lot Meadows,' the customs of which are deserving of attention as being unusual in their form, so much so that a well known valuer, writing in the year 1809 from Banbury, says:—

'The term "Drawn" as applied to meadow land I have never before met with in 40 years' practice³.'

The parishes of Begbroke and Water Eaton have each a share in the Yarnton meadows: Begbroke, 66 acres; Water Eaton, 7 acres, 1 rood, 8 poles. These lands are interchangeable year by year according as the lots are drawn. Certain enclosures marked out with stones and called 'Tydals' that is Tythals, belong to the rectories of Yarnton and Begbroke. Each Tydal is divided into three parts: two of which belong to Exeter College⁴, and one to Begbroke. Wolvercote has a large share in Pixey mead.

Part of Pixey in Begbroke, 14 acres, 2 roods, 16 poles.

Part in Water Eaton, 7 acres, 1 rood, 8 poles.

The custom of the drawing is as follows: The 'Meadsman' has the management of the business and upon a certain appointed day at the end of June he takes a bag, containing thirteen coloured wooden balls, down to the meadows and begins the drawing. 'Oxhay mead' has seventy acres and is drawn three times: 'West

¹ White Kennet, vol. 1, p. 128. These two bridges are those between Wolvercote and Godstow.

² More's Collections, pp. 129 and 144, in Bodl. Lib.

³ A letter in Exeter College from Mr. John Chamberlain, Cropredy Lawn, Banbury, April 1, 1809.

⁴ For the Rectory of Yarnton.

mead' has eighty acres and is drawn five times: 'Pixey' has sixty acres and is drawn twice. N.B.—The drafts of 'Pixey' are drawn together. Each draft consists of thirteen lots. In 'Oxhay' thirty-nine lots; in 'West mead' sixty-five lots; in 'Pixey' twenty-six lots. Each lot has a name, marked upon a ball, and belongs to a particular farm, and when such name is drawn it shows to whom such a lot belongs.

The thirteen names are as follows. The origin of them is not known. 'Gilbert, White, Harry, Boat, William, Freeman, Rothe, Walter Molly, Walter Jeoffrey, Perry, Green, Dunn, Boulton or Booton.'

The drawing proceeds in each meadow as above according to the number of lots necessary to cover the area¹.

When all is done runners proceed to mark the 'treadways' between the lots by running across the grass from fixed stakes shuffling their feet along.

The measurement of the land used in these meadows requires explanation. The size of the unit of measurement varies with the lot drawn.

A yard is a fourth part of a lot.

A habaker is half a lot.

An acre is a lot.

An acre or lot is sometimes three or four acres.

The habaker, two or two and a half².

The yard, one or more.

A man's mowth is reckoned at a scratch acre.

When each lot is large, the habaker is large too, and so the yard, and when small, they are small too.

The custom used to be to cut the grass in the first mead, 'Oxhay,' on the 1st Monday after old St. Peter's; to cut the grass in 'West mead,' on the following Monday; to cut the grass in 'Pixey,' the Monday following.'

The plan of cutting each meadow upon one day gave rise to an immense amount of disturbance and riot in the village. As a great influx of disorderly people flocked to the place, where a fair was held, with all its attendant drunkenness. No respectable person was able to

¹ The materials for this chapter are taken from Dr. Thomas' papers, Gough, 91, Bodl. Lib. Also information from Mr. Balleine, the vicar.

² A 'Habaker' or Halfacre in Oxhay, 2a. 1r. 31p.; in Picksey, 1a. 3r. 34p.;

three yards in West mead, 4a. or. 24p. The Tidalls are pens of the best land stoned out in each meadow for the tithe owner, to discharge the rest from tithe. Gough 82. See p. 218 supra.

go near the meadows, and the riots ended in loss of life. Moreover, the restriction of time obliged the farmers to employ outside labour, whereby wages were spent outside the parish to the detriment of the home labourers.

Owing to these considerations, Mr. Vaughan Thomas, the vicar, urged upon the landlords and tenants the desirability of extending the time of cutting the grass from one day to three. It was shown that if this plan were adopted, two home labourers could do as much as ten upon the old system.

In 1815 the excitement ran so high that Mr. James Walker of Yarnton was sworn in as Justice of the Peace, and special constables were held in readiness for any emergency. A memorandum of the vicar's, who evidently kept himself in the background, is as follows:—

‘Upon the information of my Clerk, July 15th, 1815. In the evening Mr. Strainge proffered a fight in the meadows; Mr. R. Osborn prevented it in Yarnton, the parties then went to the other side of the ditch into ‘Worton Mead’ (Cassington parish), Lindsey and Strainge then quarrelled and fought, &c. The special Constables remained in the Town at the Red Lion.’

Strainge¹ was again leading the disturbances in 1817, and strongly opposed any change in the days for mowing. The following pithy dialogue took place between him and the vicar on the 10th July in that year:—

‘Strainge, “I think, Sir, it is an improper interference with private property.”

Thomas. “I disavow all such motives; my reason for what I have done is to keep peace and good order.”

Strainge. “I conclude that Sir H. Dashwood's property will be injured by the arrangement.”

Thomas. “You are the only person who thinks so, I must say you are a solitary instance of opposition.”

Strainge. “When you wrote to Sir H. Dashwood you did not know that there were ‘Commons’ after the Mowth.”

Thomas. “I mentioned them in my letter together with the objection against the change of time which was made on that account.”

Strainge. “You have been very hasty in the business.”

Thomas. “I weighed it well first of all, and then acted with speed.”

Strainge. “When people live in glass houses they should not throw stones. I think that service ought to be performed twice a day on Sundays.”

¹ He lived in the Manor House. Dr. V. Thomas wrote to beg Sir H. Dashwood to forbid his tenant Slatter making

the ‘Garland,’ as that always began the disturbances.

Thomas. "If we begin to throw stones perhaps I should break one of your windows; for if you acted in that way I would most certainly have all your tithes in kind."

Strainge. "Well, Sir, I have been rather warm as I felt hurt upon this interference. We'll forget, if you please, all that has passed."

Thomas. "With all my heart, and (taking him by the hand) I said there is no man of whose openness, honour, and candour I have a better opinion." (I feared I said too much, but quære?)

The change in the time for mowing was agreed upon by all parties concerned in 1817, and the vicar closed his labours upon this matter with a sermon upon the blessings of peace.

The meadows were opened for stock on the Monday after Yarnton feast, which is held at the feast of St. Bartholomew.

The meadow mark for cattle is E.=Erdington.

The canal cutting from Duke's Lock to the river, leads a portion of the boat traffic along the Yarnton meads. Boats using this towing path pay toll to the meadsman.

MORRIS' LOTS.

'Mem. Seven lots belonged to Coggins, they are the same that he fought for with the Burgesses of Oxford. They came to Mrs. Taylor; part came to Morris by inheritance; bought the rest of Bayliss. The Pixsey lot was bought by Swan of Wolvercote Mill¹.'

A FARM BELONGING TO EXETER COLLEGE, purchased about the year 1789:—

1632. From deeds in the possession of the College, we are able to trace the history of this farm from the year 1632. In the 8th of Charles I, Henry Phipps of Yarnton, gave a lease of several 'holts' in the meadows, a piece called 'Sharpes,' and other pieces of land forming part of his farm, to John Tustian of Kidlington; this lease was renewed between the same parties and William, the only son of J. Tustian, who became a party in it. The 'Marsh Close' is particularly mentioned, and its situation pointed out as having upon the south side a close in the occupation of Thomas Leigh, gentleman, and upon the north one in the possession of James Stone, gent., upon the west 'The Cottagers' Close,' and abutting upon the lane leading to Kidlington. Phipps probably owned this land before this. In 1615, Widow Phipps was assessed for two yard-lands. This is pretty certainly the

¹ V. Thomas, notes, Gough, 91. By 'Coggins' Cockin here is evidently meant. See Begbroke.

same piece occupied by Robert Page in 1530 (see list for that date) hence 'Page's Close.'

1691. This year, Robert Phipps, cordwainer, mortgaged this same land to one Miles, gent., of London. In 1702, Robert Phipps made his last will in favour of his wife (Elizabeth Colin of Ensham¹), leaving ample provision for the education of his only child Elizabeth, who, upon her marriage with John Weston, conveyed the farm to her husband: he mortgaged 'Page's Close' to Alderman Wright. Weston let another portion to Henry Wise, and at last, apparently being hopelessly involved, Exeter College accepted the mortgages, 1739, and Weston rented the land from them. John Weston being dead, a lease was given to his son, who is styled Phipps Weston, Clerk, of Fifield, co. Berks, in 1749. The sale seems to have been completed by the payment of £800 to the Weston family, and the new lease granted to Phipps Weston in 1789 is endorsed 'estate and tenement purchased this year.'

Mr. Weston valued part of his farm thus:—

	<i>a.</i>	<i>r.</i>	<i>p.</i>
'Half an acre in Oxhurst Drawn three times . . .	0	2	0
3 Yerds in West Meadow Drawn five times . . .	1	3	0
Half an acre in Pixey Drawn once	0	2	0.

To understand this refer to the Meads' Customs, page 309. By this explanation, the half acre in Oxhurst would be equal to one and a half acre: the three yerds in West Mead would be equal to eight acres and three roods. The half acre in Pixey, two roods².

1796. Lease to Tredwell Strainge (late in occupation of Thomas Watson).

1818. To John Cooper, who sublet the farm the following day, by agreement with the College, to John Eeley. Rent £236 for eight years.

Weston appears to have gone to Hinton near Brackley. He gave evidence in the tithe suit in 1808.

JACKSON FAMILY AND MERTON COLLEGE FARM.

The last will and testament of John Jackson, cook, proved in 1724, is preserved among the Weston papers in Exeter College. From its internal testimony we may conclude that he was a member of that

¹ Yarnton Reg. 1690.

² This farm is measured and laid out at two yard-lands, each yard at thirty acres. The yard-land varied with the quality of the land (Survey of 1744, Gough, 82).

family. Amongst other items he bequeaths the picture of Elizabeth, now wife of John Weston, to his son Henry Jackson.

In Merton College Chapel, upon the west side of the north aisle is a mural tablet¹ to the memory of Henry Jackson, who died on the 22nd of October, 1727, in his 53rd year. This person is much praised for his good life and affable manners, and by his music is said to have added much to the attractions of the college choir to which he belonged. He began as chorister at Christ Church, afterwards clerk, and then chaplain of New College; reader in the Temple at London; Minor Canon of St. Paul's. By his will he left to Merton College land, both in Littlemore and Yarnton, for the support of four scholars who were to be born in 'Oxonia.' His mother, Maria Jackson, is buried near to him: she died in 1711, aged 56².

The fields belonging to this farm are all intermixed with those belonging to Exeter; the inference may be that they represent together the old property of Phipps Weston.

POLL FOR THE COUNTY ELECTION IN 1754.

The account of this hotly contested election is given in the history of Kidlington. The details of the Yarnton voters are as follows:—

John Davies, occupying his own land, voted for Wenman and Dashwood.

Robert Rogers, clerk, living at Iffley, for Vicarage, voted for the same. He was objected to as not being assessed at Iffley.

Richard Southby, Esq., of Appleton, Berks, for land occupied by Thos. Dunsby, voted for the same.

Adrien Jo. Sweete, Esq., of Train, Devon, for land occupied by Thos. Field (Frice Farm), voted for the same.

Thomas Wilkins, of Ensham, for land occupied by George Watkins, voted for Parker and Turner.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

Before we draw this history of Yarnton to a close, we may endeavour to form a picture of the village and its inhabitants as they appeared during the latter part of the eighteenth and the early portion of this century. The following particulars are gleaned from various

¹ The tablet above is surmounted by a bust, and beneath is the following coat of arms, 'Gules, a fesse between three sheldrakes argent.'

² Gough, 91, p. 4.

sources and may be considered authentic. First of all, we must remember that the present aspect of the village only dates from the breaking up of the manor upon the sale of the Spencer property. This gave rise to many houses being built and many small holdings¹. In the seventeenth century the greater portion of the village lay upon the east side of the Church lane, and the houses were approached by bridges over barrel arches across the ditch. 'Pater Noster' meadow was divided into 12 or 13 plots, which formed paddocks to the cottages. At the bottom of this lane, which was the highway to Oxford, stood Folliat's public-house, part still remaining, at that time the 'Red Lion(?)'. Higher up the road was the 'Six Bells'², for many years past a private house. The road leading to Cassington, known as 'Froggledown Lane,' was not discontinued until about the year 1800, when Cassington was enclosed. One Brooks insisted upon having the road altered, and the Yarnton people making no resistance, it was closed.

Dr. Thomas, says:—

'It was at the Six Bells that the Ringers went to drink their ringing money; the house was as old as the Yarnton peal, that is, it was opened as an Alehouse about 1620.'

The money was paid to the 'host' by the churchwardens, and he gave it out in beer to the ringers. Parret and Cecil kept the house successively.

Folliat's house was used by the tradesmen, who were sent there to drink their beavers.

The condition of the roads about this country may be imagined from what a writer in the beginning of this century says:—

'I remember the roads of Oxfordshire 40 years ago when they were in a condition formidable to the bones of all who travelled upon wheels. The two great turnpike roads were repaired with stones as large as they could be got from the quarry, and the cross roads were impassable without real danger³.'

Yarnton was probably more favoured than other parishes in this respect, having the road to the royal manor of Woodstock running through the village. The bridge at the entrance of the parish called 'King's Bridge' may very well have been provided for the royal progress, and the people of Yarnton were employed in keeping the road in passable repair, apparently under 'the King's supervisors⁴.'

¹ V. Thomas, Gough, 91.

No. 42 on map.

² This house belonged to Dr. Thomas and was then inhabited by J. Cooper.

³ Arthur Young, 1813.

⁴ Parish Books.

The old vicarage stood on the side of the Church lane and was a small poor cottage¹. The vicars do not appear to have been resident until Dr. Thomas enlarged the vicarage house. He lived some years at Begbroke as curate, and latterly in Oxford. During his long incumbency he employed himself in advancing the well-being of his parish in many ways, and in collecting materials for its history, of which the present writer has gratefully made use. Agriculture may be presumed to have been in a very rudimentary condition, as Arthur Young finds no remarks to make, although praising the farms of many in the neighbourhood. Tradition tells us that upon the first breaking up of Sir Thomas Spencer's park, the land was laid down in woad (*Reseda luteola*), which was used for yellow dye, and also for the yellow paint known as 'dutch pink.' There still continues a good deal of the plant wild in the lane. The family of Dunsby were first brought here out of Lincolnshire² to cultivate it, they being acquainted with the plant and its treatment. To the entry of several burials is attached the word 'Woadboy or Woadman.' Hearne says, 'Woad flourishes here mightily.'

A very singular husbandry was also the cultivation of flax for the sake of the seed for fattening bullocks.

'Eight or nine years past there was a wonderful quantity of flax raised at Water Eaton, Hampton, and Yardington, on boggy land, and a good wheat got after it by Mr. Cocks, but at present there is none. The flax was watered and dressed in the usual way, but the object of the cultivation was the seed for live stock³.'

The still existing system of 'lot meadows' is a survival of the open field system which had been found so undesirable in most places. The fact of the lots being interchangeable and lying in narrow strips and parcels must have led to waste and inconvenience to all parties. The natural drainage of the parish of Yarnton had been much interfered with when the Thames was made navigable to Cricklade⁴, and by the canal, and we may add, in common with the rest of the parishes along its course, by the making of the railway.

The erection of the Pound Lock at Godstow and the water 'pen' at King's Weir had destroyed the ford way into Pixey, and thereby deprived the farmers of their easy access to that meadow, the water

¹ Dr. Thomas.

² Another letter says 'Gloucestershire.' Gough, 91.

³ Arthur Young, Survey of Oxfordshire, 1813.

⁴ Dr. Thomas and A. Young.

having been raised four or five feet. It had also had the effect of filling the ditches and causing the water to stand in pools throughout the year, and had changed some of the best pasturage in Yarnton into coarse, worthless grass. In 1813 a lawsuit was entered upon against Mr. Swan of Wolvercote Mill on account of the water level, the owners being accused of having raised the sill of a lasher during the night.

The condition of the people changed with that of the land upon the departure of the old family. When the Spencers dwelt here there were no labouring poor: all were small renters farming on their own account. Later on we are told of one labouring man, a resident; many small farms have been absorbed with the usual result—a long list of persons on the rates¹. There was no 'Poor House' here: all were looked after at home in the parish houses until the new Union brought about a change of management and the houses were sold.

A few of the old inhabitants may still be traced. The Mynnes who for many years filled the parish offices of trust, occupied 'Frice' farm, which was the home farm to the Manor House, and the malt house was there. On the 20th July, 1823, a disastrous thunder-storm broke over 'Frice' farm about three in the afternoon, while it was occupied by Mr. Vincent Shortland. Property to the amount of £500 was burnt owing to the lightning setting fire to a barn².

Among the substantial farmers in Yarnton may be reckoned the family of Osborn. Dr. Thomas tells us that the first of the name who rented the Manor Farm had been a tailor, but having had a wonderful crop of barley he was made a man of.

'The Clerk's wife's grandmother lived in the house he now occupies, she and her husband Osborn had a dairy therein and a small farm of about 50 or 60 acres, the same took place all over the village. In Mrs. Miles' "Rutton" there were many tenements. In John Lay's ground near the Pool, a little tenement. Jones' Cottage, once an alehouse. Old Mills lived at the Vicarage, brought in by Mr. Hawkins, 1815³.'

'Robert and Henry Osborn were brothers; James, son of Robert: they all held the Manor Farm⁴.'

The northern boundary of Yarnton was undefined and intermixed with the adjoining parish of Begbroke⁵. Many pieces of land in

¹ Gough, 91.

² Gough adds: Oxon, 4^o, 49. During the last hundred years the parish has gradually become a dairy parish; formerly it was more arable and worked to the greater benefit of the tithe owners.

Gough, 82.

³ Edward Morton was clerk. Gough, 91.

⁴ Gough, 82.

⁵ Terrier of Begbroke, Gough, 91.

Yarnton had always paid tithe to the other parish, but where they may have been, or upon what the charge was made, no one could tell.

Hearne mentions being detained at Yarnton by a tempest in June, 1712. He was in company with a friend named Burghers¹, who had been to Stonesfield. This man, and a Yarnton man named Faber, came to words upon a drawing of the Stonesfield pavement which Burghers had made. Hearne walked on when the storm was over, and left the two Dutchmen to decide their quarrel².

¹ Michael Burghers, a well-known engraver.

² Hearne's Coll., vol. 3, p. 408, 'Hist. Society.'

THE HISTORY OF BEGBROKE.

THE HISTORY OF BEGBROKE.



CHAPTER I.

BEGBROKE IN DOMESDAY.

‘THESE written below are the lands of William the Earl.’

‘Roger de Laci holds Begbroke (Bechebroc) and Radulf from him. There are four hides and 1 virgate. Land for 6 ploughs. Now in Demesne two ploughs and 6 villeins with three borderers have two ploughs. There are fifty acres of meadow and forty acres of pasture. It was worth a Hundred shillings and afterwards six pounds. Now worth four pounds¹.’

‘Earl William mentioned in this entry was William Fitz-Osbern, Sewer of Normandy and Earl of Hereford. He died abroad in 1070. The Earldom of Hereford and all his lands in England went to his third son, Roger de Britolio, who was condemned to imprisonment and loss of his possessions for rebellion. The lands mentioned in the above manner seem to have been part of Earl William’s Fee retained as such and at the time of the Survey let out to farm by the King².’

Under the patronage of the Lacys, Begbroke became a dependency of the Lordship of Ludlow.

The name of this place is an example of the tautological use of two words signifying the same thing, Brook; another instance, exactly parallel, occurs in Cheshire, where the name Bach Brook is found³.

¹ Vol. 1, p. 161.

³ Izaak Taylor’s Words and Places,

² Introduction to Domesday. See p. 224.
Ellis.

Hundred Rolls, vol. 2, p. 857 (about 3 Edward I, 1274-5):—

Bekebrok.

Richard de Lions holds one fourth part of the township of Bekebroc from Richard de Wylamescote and the same Richard from Geoffrey de Geinvile and the same Geoffrey from the Lord the King in chief of the Honour of Ludlow. He holds in demesne half a carucate of land with the advowson of the church of the same place and he holds it for half a knight's fee from the aforesaid Richard, he owes suit and service at the Hundred court of Wootton three weeks at a time.

Servi.

Ralph de Warkewurthe holds of the same Richard one virgate of land for 5s. and works and redeems his children at the will of his lord. Adam Mayn: Richard de Bladene: Agnes de Bladene: each one virgate under the same conditions and they pay scutage for each virgate of ij^s vi^d.

The Prioress of Stodley holds in the aforementioned village three virgates of land from the same Richard and pays ij^s 6^d scutage for each virgate. And she holds in demesne one virgate and does suit and service as above.

Servi.

Walter le Geyt holds from the same Prioress one virgate for 5s. working, &c., and redeeming as above.

Robert le Berker holds from the same one virgate on the same terms.

John Gifford holds four virgates of land in demesne and half the village from the aforesaid Richard de Wylamescote and the same Richard holds it from Geoffrey de Geinvile and the same Geoffrey from the Lord the King, in chief of the Honour of Ludlowe. He holds it for half a knight's fee and owes suit and service at the Court at Wootton.

Servi.

Richard de Pyrie holds 1 virgate from the said John for 5s. working giving aid and redeeming his children; Walter Godefray; Walter Crips; Richard Cole; Walter Rudulf; Will Boveton; Geoffrey Egstreeye and they pay at the View of Frank Pledge 2s. a year.

In the above account from the Hundred Rolls we see that the Manor of Begbroke was let to Richard de Wylamsote¹, and that he sublet it in three separate portions.

1. Richard de Lions held one quarter of the village with the Ad-

¹ Richard de Williamsote appears to have married a de Sausey. See *infra*.

vowson of the church, also the Demesne lands for which he paid half a knight's fee (£10), and had four tenants under him.

2. The Prioress of Studley held three virgates of land from the same Richard de Wylamscote, and she sublet one to Walter le Geyt, another to Robert le Berker, holding the third in her own hands.

3. John Gifford held half the village and four virgates in Demesne, from the same, and from him Richard de Pyrie rented one virgate and six small tenements.

These three divisions of the Parish may possibly still be represented by the three principal holdings, viz. the Manor House, Begbroke Hall Farm, and Begbroke Hill ¹.

Let us take what belongs to the *first portion*.

The family of Lyons who held the Manor and the Advowson came from Warkworth in Northamptonshire, where they were settled before the beginning of the 13th century.

From John de Lyons descended Roger, who presented the first Rector whose name we know.

In the early part of the reign of King John this Roger, or his namesake, held:—

‘Of the Fee of Walter de Lacy one knight's fee in Bekebroc for ij marks ².’

In the seventeenth of the same reign we find that he had been disturbed in his possession, and had applied to the King for redress, which he speedily obtained.

‘The King to the Sheriff of Oxfordshire greeting,

‘We require of you that if it is found that Roger de Lyonns has been unjustly deprived of his lands in Begbroke and without trial that he be fully reinstated therein.’

‘The King to the Sheriff of Oxon greeting,

‘We order that without delay you shall give full possession to Roger de Lyonns of half of Bekebroc with its belongings, and of the mill at Wenrigg and of one messuage at Holton, if he has been unjustly deprived of the same without trial and as he says, by our will ³.’

1335-6. In ninth Edward III, John de Lyons had ‘Free warren in Bekebroke and Swerford ⁴.’

¹ If we could be certain which of these two latter farms represent the Studley property, the rest would be simple.

² Testa de Nevill, p. 112.

³ Close Rolls, an. 17 John, vol. 1, p. 216, a. and b.

⁴ Quod Damnum, p. 169.

How this family were subsequently represented by the Chetwodes and Woodhulls see Pedigree, page 328.

The second part, the Farm of the Nuns.

In 'Testa de Nevill'¹ we read that Matilda de Lens and the Prioress of Studley hold one knight's fee from Ralph de Salcey in Bekebroc, of the Fee of Walter de Lacy and the same Walter from the King.

In Henry VIIIth's reign the property of 'Stodeley Priory in Begbroke was valued at 26*s.* 8*d.*'²

Their land was bought after the dissolution by the Crokes, and this farm in Begbroke was especially named³.

The Priory of Studley was a house of Benedictine nuns founded by Bernard of St. Wallery.

The third portion held by John Gifford.

This turbulent Baron was Lord of Brimsfield; he carried off by force the widowed Countess of Salisbury and heiress of the Cliffords, and obliged her to marry him in 1240. In fighting against the Welsh he killed Llewellyn their Prince and was rewarded by the King, being summoned to Parliament as Baron of Brimsfield in the county of Gloucester⁴. In the year 1281 he founded Gloucester Hall in Oxford for the maintenance of thirteen Monks to pray for the repose of the souls of himself and his wife, the Countess Maud of Salisbury⁵. His son John Gifford succeeded him, and lost his head in the cause of Thomas Earl of Lancaster in 1322; the attainder being reversed, the lands were restored to his family a few years later, and we find the names of

'Thomas Gifford ch'r and Sibella uxor ejus, half of Somerton manor: half of Fringford manor: quarter of messuage and quarter of virgate in Begbroke'⁶.

Further, fourteen years later:—

'Roger Gifford armiger, Begbroke manor, Cogges cotagium, Newinton manor'⁷.

The Nuns of Godstow also held a small interest in Begbroke.

'Abbess of Godstow in Garsington, Thorp, Bekebroc, Cuddington, Lodewell in lands and rents £2 18*s.* 8*d.*'⁸

¹ p. 103.

² Valor Ecclesiasticus, vol. 2, p. 186.

³ 31 Hen. VIII, Dug. Mon., vol. 4, pp. 251, 252.

⁴ Burke's Extinct Peerage.

⁵ Elizabethan Oxford, Hist. Soc., p. 69.

⁶ 18 Rich. II, Inq. Post Mort., vol. 3, p. 181.

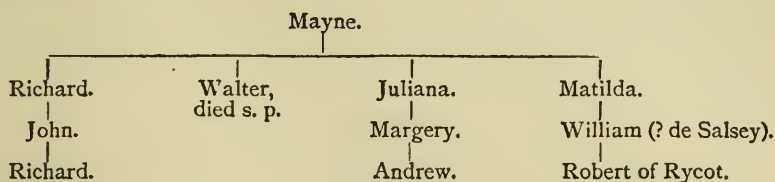
⁷ 10 Hen. IV, u. s. p. 321.

⁸ Taxation of Pope Nicholas, p. 44 b.

The family of Mayne, of whom we read in Domesday as being allowed 'to go where they please,' owned a certain portion of land in Begbroke, which became a subject of dispute before the Courts in Oxford for many years. In 1 Richard I:—

'Richard son of Mein fined in three marks to have his plaint in the King's Court against William de Salsey for the land in Begbroke.' 'The same Richard gave a mark to have his Duell in the King's Court against William de Salsey¹.'

In the following reign the family were still at law, and the following case was brought for trial.



Robert of Rycot sued his cousin Andrew for half a carucate and four virgates of land in Begbroke and certain lands in Horspath, of which Walter son of Mayne had died seized; he claimed through Matilda his grandmother, sister to the said Walter².

Andrew defended his right to these lands as being grandson to Juliana the elder sister; inasmuch as Richard the elder son of Mayne having enfeoffed his brother Walter with the same, upon the death of Walter without issue, Juliana entered into possession. Richard, grandson of the aforesaid Richard, three years previously had tried his case in Oxford against Andrew and had lost his suit, immediately upon which they came to terms, and Richard received the homage of Andrew upon the spot, so that half the lands in Horspath and the whole in Begbroke remained to Andrew.

Robert and Richard came forward and acknowledged the parentage and all that had been put forward, and it was finally agreed that as Robert could only claim half the lands, if he had any claim at all, and as he was only descended from a sister whereas Richard was descended from the elder son, Andrew was cleared and Robert was fined half a mark.

Richard Mayne used for seal an open hand, with the motto 'In hac manu³.'

¹ Madox, History of the Exchequer, pp. 105, 144. Edited by F.W. Maitland, 1887, case 815.

² Bracton's Note-Book, Hen. III. p. 112. ³ Mun. Mag. Coll., W. D. Macray

1264-5. In 49 Hen III :—

‘The King gave in fee one carucate of land in Beckbroc to John Clifford, which had belonged to James the son of Moses the Jew of London¹.’

The same Moses was the owner of houses in Oxford and sold them to the Founder of Merton College, part of the site of the present front².

25 Hen. III. A case was tried to determine if Rosa de Bekebroc and her son William had unjustly turned John de Punzard out of his house in Bekebroc. The jury found that the said John had been wrongfully turned out, and it was ordered that he should be reinstated in his holding³.

‘Bekebrok. The church of this parish with all its belongings is taxed at 4s. 4d. The Ninths are assessed at 40s. and no more, the Jurors declaring that the glebe and all the tithes are valued at 40s. There are none here to be called Catallar⁴.’

The case of the agents of the Abbot of Ensham levying the tithes⁵ is mentioned in the History of Yarnton, p. 210, and some Begbroke men were unjustly imprisoned.

‘Hamo de Creuker et Matilda de Havering uxor ejus—Begbroke terr’ &c. Kant⁶.’

Hamon de Crevecœur or de ‘Crepito Corde’ was High Sheriff of Kent and died 47 Hen. III. His estate in Begbroke must have come to him through his wife, who doubtless inherited it from her mother.

Roland d'Abrincis, Lord of Folkestone, married in 2 Hen. I.	⋈	Maud, dau. and heiress of Nigel de Muneville or Amundeville, Lord of Folkestone.
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Maud, heiress to her brother, married 6 Hen. III.	⋈	Hamon de Crevecœur, Lord of Leeds, co. Kent ⁷ .
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In the Hundred Rolls for Yarnton we see that the family of Mandeville or Hamundeville held land there, and the uncertainty of the boundaries of these two parishes was recognised down to recent times.

¹ Calend. Rot. Pat. in Turris Londini. p. 138.
John to Ed. IV. p. 36 b.

² Elizabethan Oxford, p. 197.

³ Abreviatio Placitorum; Hundred of Wootton, p. 116.

⁴ Inquisition for levying the Ninths,

⁵ Hundred Rolls, vol. 2, p. 48.

⁶ Inq. Post Mort., vol. 1, p. 23. 47 Hen. III, c. 1262-3.

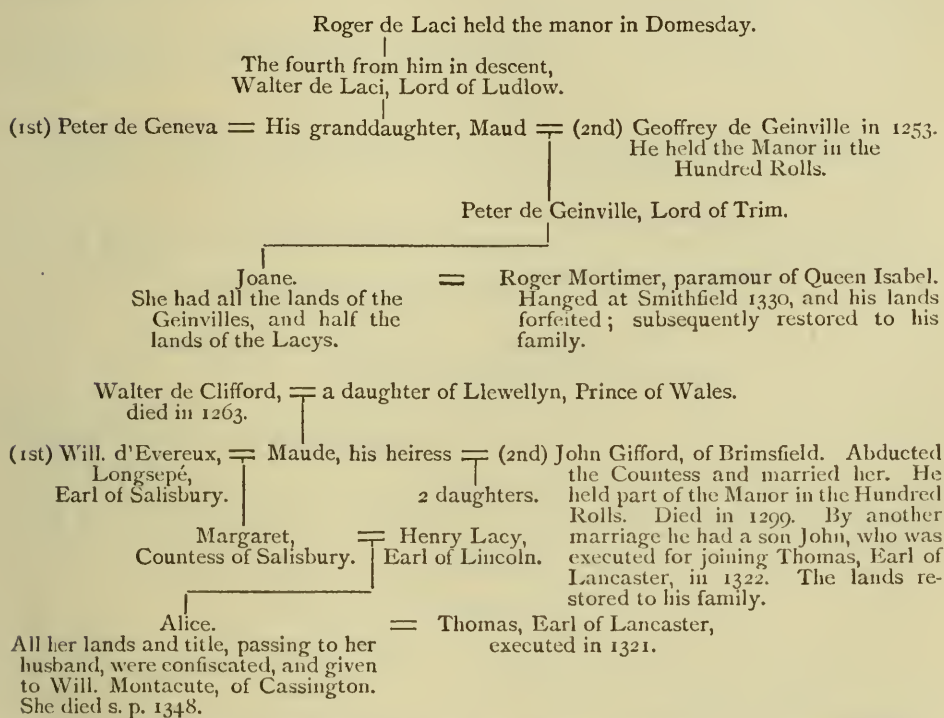
⁷ Historic Peerage, Sir H. Nicolas, p. 18.

The family of Crevecœur were also at home in the neighbourhood, there is mention of

‘An acquittance by Sir Robert de Crevequer, Knt., for the payment by the Abbot and Convent of Osney for the Hundred of North Gate of £10, being part of £20¹.’ Dated at Osney 30 Ed. I.

‘Begbroke, Bekebroc. Appointment to Robert Fulconis and Robert Malet to take the Jury arraigned by Geoffrey de Henxtseye against Gilbert de Crokesford touching a tenement in².’

Table showing the descent of the Manor of Begbroke through the feudal Lords from the Conquest until the sale of the lands of Henry Grey, Earl of Suffolk.



These pedigree descents are drawn from Burke's Extinct Peerage—Lacy, Gifford, Clifford, Montacute, and d'Evreux, Earl of Salisbury.

The lands of both these families having fallen into the King's hands, those of Lacy in 1330, and those of Clifford in 1321 and 1322, consequently we next find Begbroke in the custody of the King's agent.

‘20th Edward 3^d (1346-7). Divers lands and rents in Bekebroc, &c. John de Abberbury Chevalier³.’

¹ Oxford Charters, Turner and Coxe's p. 17. 7 Ed. I.
Cat., p. 339.

³ Inq. Post Mort., vol. 2, p. 128.

² 48th Report of D. K. of Records,

William Montacute, of Cassington,
had grant of all the lands and the title of the Earl of Salisbury.

His grandson, Sir John Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, joined the Lollards, and was killed at Cirencester in 1400. His honours all forfeited, but restored to his family.

Matilda, dau. of Sir Adam Francis, and widow of John Aubrey and of Sir Alan Buxhall, Knt. ('Matilda, formerly wife of John de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, and wife of Alan de Buxhall, Knt., Bekebroc, 1 fee¹')

Thomas, Earl of Salisbury, = Alice Chaucer.
killed at siege of Orleans.

Thomas Chaucer possessed land in Begbroke before the marriage of his daughter with the Earl of Salisbury.

'Thomas Chaucer and Matilda his wife—Cotes, Wootten and Begbroke—6 messuages, 4 tofts, 100 acres in land and 6 acres of meadow in above².'

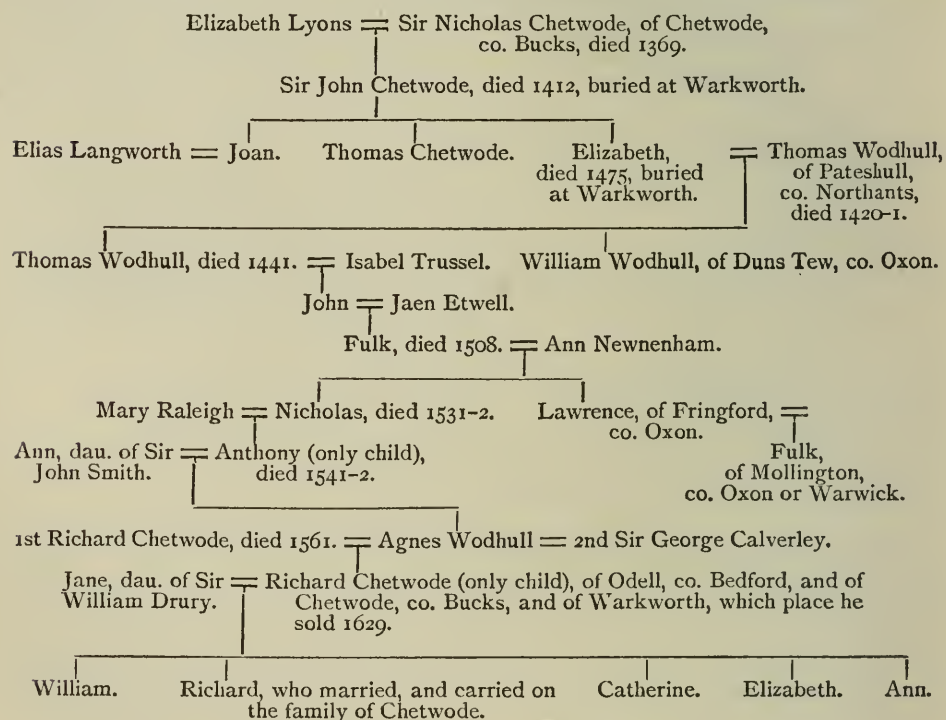
Two years later Matilda Chaucer appears assessed for the same.

Alice Chaucer remarried to Will. de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, to whom she conveyed all her lands.

For the further descent of her family see our history of Kidlington.

DESCENT OF CHETWODE AND WODHULL FROM LYONS OF WARKWORTH, CO. NORTHANTS³.

John de Lyons settled at Warkworth before 1200, having married the heiress of the estate. After several descents from him, an heiress carried the family estates to her husband.



¹ Inq. Post Mort., 3 Hen. VI (1424-5), vol. 4, p. 86.

² Ibid., 13 Hen. VI (1434-5), p. 160.

³ From Baker's Northamptonshire, vol. 1, pp. 712, 739, under Warkworth and Thenford.

ARMS.

Warkworth.—Argent, a fesse azure, between three crescents, gules.

Lyons.—Argent, a lion rampant, gules.

Chetwode.—Quarterly, argent and gules, four crosses formé, counterchanged.

Wodhull.—Or, three crescents, gules.

There does not appear to be any memorial existing of any of these persons in Begbroke. In Warkworth church some of the Chetwodes are buried, and the arms of Lyons remain.

CHAPTER II.

PATRONS OF THE LIVING OF BEGBROKE.

THE family of Lyons presented to the Rectory during a period of 117 years, with the exception of the year 1294, in which year Roger de Lenns, layman, is said to be the Patron. This change may probably be connected with the name of Matilda de Lens¹, who held land here at that time.

A glance at the Pedigree will show how the heiress of Lyonns of Warkworth married Sir Nicholas Chetwode, consequently her son John Chetwode became Patron of the Rectory. His son Sir Thomas succeeded, who dying without issue, he devised his property to the heirs of his two sisters, which provision is seen in 1432 by the nomination of the Rector by the four Trustees. Elizabeth Chetwode, Lady Wodhull, the sole survivor of the family, carried the advowson to the Wodhulls; she presented in 1457; her grandson Fulk in 1499. About the year 1530 a change was made in the property, to what extent we cannot tell; we learn incidentally that the Manor was henceforth considered as part of the Manor of Dunstew, where one branch of the Wodhulls was settled; and five years later the next presentation was made by the Feoffees of Nicholas Wodhull, and later by Griffin an Attorney. Sir Thomas Spencer appears as Patron in 1614, and the second Sir Thomas in 1680. With the Yarnton property the Begbroke estate and Living were sold by the coheiresses of Sir Thomas Spencer, the portion of Jane Lady Teviot being dealt with separately. Three turns to the Living were purchased with the land by Sir Robert Dashwood, and the fourth turn remained in the name of Mrs. Jane Marwood of Yarnton, niece to Lady Teviot. From her apparently it was purchased with the Yarnton fourth by Benjamin Swete, and by him given to the Principal of Brasenose College in Trust, for presentation to one of the Fellows². The Dashwood family held

¹ See p. 324.

² Statutes of Brasenose College.

‘Three parts of the Parish, three parts of the Manor, and three presentations to the Livings of Yarnton and Begbroke¹.’

To return to the Wodhulls. Anthony Wodhull in 1541 left his only child Agnes heiress to all his estates, and for her first husband she took Richard Chetwode of Chetwode, co. Bucks. Thus Chetwode again became Lord of Begbroke. A Chancery suit entered upon after the death of Agnes and Richard Chetwode will give us some insight into the management of this property.

‘Henry Hill and Agnes his wife, Plaintiff.

‘Richard Chetwode, Esq., and John Manning, Defendants.

‘To quiet Plaintiff—A Messuage and land in Bekbroke held of the Manor of Dunstew, which were granted to Plaintiff Agnes by Richard Chetwode, Esq., and Agnes his wife deceased, the Defendant Chetwode being their son and heir².’

This case was brought before Sir Thomas Bramley, Knt., Lord Chancellor. Henry Hill is described as Husbandman³, and Agnes his wife, as widow of one named Carter. In the first of Elizabeth, widow Carter took the farm by copyhold from Richard Chetwode and Agnes his wife as part and parcel of the Customary lands of the Manor of Dunstew, for the life of herself and her son Richard Carter and the longer liver of them. Shortly after which Agnes married Henry Hill, and they together complain that one John Manning, Yeoman of Begbroke, has by conferring with Richard Chetwode, son and heir of the above Richard and Agnes, got possession of their copyhold papers by which Henry and Agnes Hill are very likely to lose their estates. The answer of John Manning is interesting as showing in a very long and tedious exposition that the Manor of Begbroke was not a portion of the Manor of Warkworth, and therefore was not affected by the marriage settlements of Agnes Chetwode⁴ with Sir George Calverley her second husband. He contended that Richard Carter had enjoyed the estate for 21 years upon lease, copyhold, which lease was now expired. Henry and Agnes Hill reply, contending that their land was freehold according to the custom of the Manor of Dunstew. The verdict is not given.

¹ Sir H. Dashwood's letter to the Writer.

² Proceedings in Chancery, Elizabeth, H. h. 3. Record Office.

³ The term Husbandman was used indifferently for all grades of farmers.

⁴ For the Customs of Warkworth meadow, see Baker's Northants, and a most interesting account of the Chetwoods is to be found in the History and Topography of Bucks, by J. J. Sheahan, 1859, p. 267.

It would seem that in absence of the Squire John Manning had attempted to assume the position of Lord of the Manor. While these proceedings were pending, the Herald's Visitation in 1574 declare that John Manning of Begbroke has no right to bear arms and is no gentleman¹.

Many years later (1634) another John Manning was Defendant in a Tithe suit with Mr. Coventrie the Rector², and later still one of the same name was apparently intruded into the Rectory. He is buried in the Church as 'Minister of God's word' (1680).

RECTORS OF BEGBROKE.

From the Institution Rolls of the Bishops of Lincoln.

1219. The Magister de Lyon.

1232. 23rd year of Bishop Welles.

'Serlo, Chaplain pres. by Roger de Leonibus, preserving the rights, if any, of Thomas, Chaplain; he is to pay the Rectors one aureus according to Charter of Bp. William.'

1234. William, Parson of Begbroke³.

1250. 15th year of Bishop Grostete. *William de Barthonia*, Chaplain, presented by Roger de Lenns, layman.

1297. 15th Feb. 18th year of Bishop Sutton. *Henry de Cumbroc*, Chaplain, presented by John de Lyonns to Vicarage vacant by death of Richard de Lyonns.

1303. 1st Dec. 4th year of Bishop d'Alderby. *Nicholas de Lyonns*, acolyte, presented by John de Lyonns, vacant by death of Henry Cumbroc.

Thomas de Stoke (possibly until Nicholas came to canonical age).

1320. 6th March. Bishop Burghwash. *William de Malesoneres*, priest, presented by John de Lyonns, vacant by resignation of Nicholas de Lyonns, the last Rector, who has exchanged for Foxcote with him.

1334. 29th May. Bishop Burghwash. *William de Pershore*, clerk, presented by John de Lyonns, vacant by resignation of Thomas de Stoke.

1335. 21st March. *William de Pershore* and *James de Kyngestone*, Rector of Meching in diocese of Chichester, have exchanged. (A long process before the Bishop.)

¹ Turner's Coll. Oxfordshire, vol. 18.

² Ibid., vol. 15, 1634, 24 April.

³ Mun. of Mag. Coll., W. D. Macray, p. 42.

1336. 2nd May. *Adam de Assheby Canonorum*, priest, presented by Sir John de Lyonns; vacant by James de Kyngestone having obtained the church of Rothwell.

1349. 28th Sep. Bishop Gynwell. *Robert Warde*, of Northaston, presented by Sir John de Lyonns; vacant by death of John.

1352. 24th Sep. Ordinacio ecclesie de Bekkebrok.

1366. Bishop Buckingham. *Thomas Mundi*, priest, presented by Sir John de Lyonns, the last Rector, Robert having obtained Miriot in diocese of Bath.

1382. 16th Oct. *Henry Donyngton*, priest, presented by John de Lyonns of Warkworth; vacant by resignation of Thomas Mundi owing to exchange for Kyngsey.

1385. 9th June. *Henry de Donyngton*, presented to Salclif (or Swalcliffe), and *John Thornho* to Backebrook by John de Chetwode, 'nepos' and heir of Sir John de Lyonns of Warkworth and Beckbrok, by exchange.

1395. 3rd March. *Thomas Payn*, priest, presented by Sir John Chetwode.

1403. 29th Dec. Bishop Beaufort. *Thomas Newehawe*, priest, presented by Sir John Chetwode on resignation of Thomas Payn.

1405. 8th Jan. Bishop Repingdon. *John Wotton*, chaplain, presented by Sir John Chetwode on resignation of John Celle.

1409. 23rd July. *Thomas Gedgh*, Rector of Bekkebroke, and *John Herberd*, Vicar of Shobury in diocese of London, have exchanged.

1421. 19th Oct. Bishop Flemyng. *John Rossoñ*, Vicar of Ardelee in diocese of London, and Magister *William Burrett*, Rector of Bekkebrok, have exchanged.

1424-5. 6th March. Magister *William Symond*, commissary-general of the Archbishop in the Archdeaconry of Oxford, is to enquire on the vacancy and patronage of Beckebroke and the merits of *Henry Box*, presented by Sir John Chetwode, and (if satisfactory) to institute him.

1431. 15th Aug. Bishop Gray. Sir Thomas Chetwode presented *Robert Longe*¹, on vacancy by death of Henry Box. Bishop orders enquiry as to patronage; jurors, William Colstone, Rector of St. Aldate's, Magister William Skelyngton, Vicar of St. Giles', &c.

1432-3. 7th Jan. *Richard Trefosburgh*, priest, presented by John Langstone², John Davers, John Waner and John Clerk.

¹ Robert Longe appears to have gone to Yarnton.

² This name may be a mistake for Langworth, or vice versa. In the Chet-

1447. 22nd Sep. Bishop Alnwick. *William Elmsall*, priest, presented by Sir Thomas Chetwode on resignation of William Ligh.

1457. 4th Sep. *Geoffrey Denthor* (or *Tydder*), priest, presented by Lady Elizabeth Woodhull, Lady of Warkworth; on resignation of William Elmsall.

1499. 20th April. Bishop Smyth. *Richard Sutton*, priest, presented by Fulk Woodhull, armiger, on death of Magister Geoffrey Tydder.

1521. 27th Sept. Bishop Longland. *John Russell*, Chaplain, presented by Nicholas Woodhull on resignation of Richard Sutton.

'John Russell priest, sup. for B.A. 16th March 152⁰₁; adm. Oct. 8; det. 1522. Sup. for M.A. 31st May 1525; lic. 13th July; inc. 17th July; disp. Feby. 152⁵₆¹.'

1535. *James Fydeler*, priest, presented on the death of John Russell, by Feoffees of Nicholas Woodhull, viz. William Aparre, John Dive, Thomas Tresham, knights, George Rawley and Paul Darrell, esquires, and Laurence Woodhull, gentleman.

1547. 'Incumbant none.' See 'Obit.'

1557. 19th Aug. *Thomas Stone*, presented by Edward Griffin, Attorney.

Laurence Woodhull.

1614. 12th Aug. *Vincent Coventrie*, M.A., presented by Sir Thomas Spencer, Knt. and Bart., on the death of Laurence Woodhull.

'Vincent Coventry; Oxon arm. fil. 16, 20 Oct. 1598. Trinity ².'

'Trinity, Vincent Coventrie, adm. B.A. 30 June 1603, det. 160³₄; lic. M.A. 12 May 1608; inc. 1608 ³.

'College lecturers excused from Congregation because they had to lecture at 10 a.m. 15th Feby 160⁸₉, Vincent Coventrie Publicus praelector in Trinity ⁴.'

'Vincent Coventrie, Rector of Begbrooke, had two daughters. Joane who married John Snell of Ufferton, alias Oulseton co. Warwick, who had one daughter Dorethie who married 2^{ndly} Mr. Benjamin Cooper, Registrar of the University; he lived in Holywell near Oxford, and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Coventrie died in his house and was buried in Holywell Church ⁵.'

Also he had a son, 'Vincent Coventrie, son of Vicar of Begbrook, St. Alban's Hall, Matric. 11 Dec. 1635, aged 17 ⁶.'

wode Pedigree a sister of Sir Thomas Chetwode married one of this name. Sir Thomas left his property to his sisters. These four probably trustees for the same.

¹ Reg. of Univ., vol. 1, p. 118. He

left a will, which see.

² Reg. Univ., vol. 2, pt. 2, p. 230.

³ u. s. pt. 3, p. 242.

⁴ u. s. pt. 1, p. 93.

⁵ Wood MSS. F. 4.

⁶ Alumni Ox., Foster.

John Manning, minister, no Patron mentioned. He is buried in the church.

1680. 18th Dec. *Thomas Willyams, M.A.*, presented by Sir Thomas Spencer, on the death of John Manning.

1686. 26th Aug. *Thomas Dunster, M.A.*, presented by the Earl of Teviot and the coheirresses of Spencer, on the death of Thomas Willyams.

‘Thomas Dunster, M.A., lately (1688) Proctor of the University, was elected and admitted Warden of Wadham, 21 Oct. 1689, D.D. May 31, 1690. Died in London, May 17, 1719. At the time of his death he was Rector of Marsh Gibbon, Bucks, and Chaplain in Ordinary to the King¹.’

‘Son of William Dunster of Elmstone, Som., p. p. Mat. 167²/₃, aged 16. Servitor, 1673; Scholar, 1675; B.A. 1676; M.A. 1679; Fellow, 1681; Rector of Holton, Oxfordshire, 1703².’

1698. 9th Nov. *Richard Tabor*, presented by Robert Dashwood of Northbrook, Bart., on cession of Thomas Dunster, S.T.P. A suit for tithes begun by him. Buried in the church.

1704. *Thomas Stanley, M.A.*, presented by Jane Marwood³ of Yarnton, spinster, on the death of Richard Tabor. He was a native of Cheshire, presented to the living of Middleton Cheney in 1710 by the Principal and Fellows of Brasenose⁴.

1739-40. 5th March. *Richard Hawkins, M.A.*, Chaplain of St. Mary Magdalen College, presented by Dorothy Dashwood, widow, on the death of Thomas Stanley. He is the same person as the Vicar of Yarnton. He is buried in the church.

1765. 26th Jan. *Thomas Cooke, B.D.*, presented by Sir James Dashwood on the death of Richard Hawkins. He is buried in the church.

1776. 8th Aug. *John Cooke, B.D.*, presented by Sir James Dashwood on the death of his brother Thomas Cooke. He was also Rector of Wood Eaton and President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He died 3rd February, 1823, in his 89th year. Buried in church. In Gent.’s Magazine, 1823, ‘He was emphatically styled the Father of the University.’ His son-in-law, Dr. Vaughan Thomas, was his curate at Begbroke and did duty there every alternate Sunday, appointed in 1814.

¹ Gutch’s Coll. and Halls, p. 597, and App. p. 317.

² Alumni Ox., Foster.

³ This lady was daughter of George Marwood and Constance Spencer. She

seems to have inherited her aunt Lady Teviot’s share in Yarnton and Begbroke and to have sold it to Ben. Swete.

⁴ Baker’s Northants, p. 654.

1823. 2nd May. *Ellis Ashton, B.D.*, Fellow of Brasenose College, presented by the Principal of Brasenose on the death of Dr. Cooke. He was also Vicar of Hayton, co. Lancaster, 12th Aug., 1813.

1869. 18th Aug. *John George Bellingham, M.A.*, presented by himself.

1871. 6th Oct. *Frederick William Waldron*, presented by himself. He is buried in the churchyard.

1873. 24th June. *Henry Atlantic Sadleir, M.A.*, formerly Preb. of Emley and Rector of Galhally. Presented by Miss Margaret Stephana Waldron, Bicester, Oxon, and Rev. John George Bellingham, Docking, Norfolk.

Collation—The Bishop of Oxford.

1877. 26th June. *George Richmond Downes, M.A.*, of Brasenose College, 1864. Formerly Chaplain to the Duke of Marlborough at Blenheim.

‘Third son of William Downes of Handsworth near Birmingham, arm. B.N.C. Mat. 11 Oct. 1856, aged 18; B.A. 1859; Rector of Begbroke, 1877¹’

SOME WILLS OF PERSONS LIVING IN BEGBROKE.

(From Turner's Collection, vol. 6; Top. Oxon, c. 47.)

1544. July 12. Robert Stoney of Begbroke bequeaths to the Church of Begbroke ij stryche of wheat and ij stryche of Barley.

Witness, James Fydler, Parson of Begbroke.

1544. Sept. 12. Thomas Alen of Begbroke bequeaths to the Church of Begbroke xx^d also to the High Altar xvjd.

Witness, James Fydler, &c.

1535. Sir John Russell, Rector of Begbroke, bequeaths to the convent of Rewley, for iij trentals of masses xxx^s. Item to the church way of the Towne, xx^s. Item to the church of Begbroke, x^s. Item a masse book and a bybell to Wroxton Abbey.

My Lord of Rewley to be executor.

¹ Alumni Ox., Foster.

AN OBIT.

1547. 'A lampe lyght.

'Certayn lande gyven towarde the feedinge of a lamplight within the said parish church by whom unknowne.

'Incombent none.

'Annual value of the lande to the same belonginge is yearly iiij^d.

'Ornaments, plate, jewellry, and stocke to the same obitt, none.

'Houselynge people, lxj¹.'

THE RECTORY HOUSE, AND GLEBE LAND, AND TITHES.

1634. A Terrier of this year describes the Glebe land as follows :—

'Imprimis, a little dwelling-house, a barn of 5 bays and a stable of 2 bays, and an orchard land divided into 4 small closes. One close called the Parsonage close, a second called Heath close, third Clay-peice and fourth Marsh close and one yard² of Hay-ground or yardland-mead lying in Yarnton meads, vidilicet in 3 meads—1 yard in Oxhurst, 1 yard in West Mead and 1 yard in Picksey. As for Church land we have none. Signed Vincent Couventrye, Rector. Thomas Evory and John Andrews, Churchwardens³.'

1685. 'A Terrier of the lands belonging to ye Rectory of Bagbrooke alias Begbrooke. Imprimis, the dwelling-house is fower Bay of Building. A Back kitchen of two bay of building. A Barne of fower Bay of Building. A stable of one Bay of Building. A garden of halfe an acre of ground. A close called the Parsonage close conteyning the quantity of three acres of ground, bounded on the north side with Mr. Eyans Heath, on south side with a close commonly known by the name of the Huntsmans' close. The Cleypeece conteyning about ye quantyty of Twelve acres of ground bounded on the north side with a ground called Doudling, on the south side with Mr. Fitzherbert's Cley ground on the west side with a wood called Bagbrooke wood. The Marsh close conteyning about the quantyty of Five acres of ground bounded on the west side with Mr. Mayes marshgrounds having on the north side Sands Lane, and on the south side Yarrington lane and butts eastward upon Kidlington Green.

The Heath ground conteyning the quantyty of above Five acres of ground and bounded westward with Worton Heath, on the north and east sides with the hutts of the cowherds of Sir Thomas Spenser on the south side with a close known by the name of Ram close.

¹ Augmentation Office, Certificate 38, No. 54, Record Office.

² The yard-land in Begbroke was 32 statute acres, but to understand a yard

in the meadows, see history of Yarnton, p. 309. The parish of Begbroke was computed at 18 yard-lands.

³ Turner's Coll. Oxon, Terriers, vol. 2.

There belongs to the Rectory of Bagbroke in the lott Meadows of Yarrington, a yard through all the three meads, viz. in Oxis Meade a yard, in West Meade a yard, and in Pixi Meade a yard.

Thomas Williams, Rector,
John Dew, Churchwarden¹.

The Rectory-house was rebuilt by Mr. Hawkins about the year 1740, and has since been altered. The Rector's account book contains the following amusing entry concerning Tithes:—

'April 21st, 1701. Received of Good-wife Tarran 1*d.* in part for what a tithe pig may be judged worth next tuesday, the pig at present being 11 days old and she answering she may have money to pay at the latter end of the week. Mem. I consented to the sale if she had a chapman for him strait. Richard Tabor, Rector.'

A dispute arose about Tithes between Mr. Tabor, Mrs. Fitzherbert and her son John. It was tried at Kidlington in October, 1703, and again four years later, his widow being then Plaintiff, in London². The boundaries of the Tything of Begbroke appear to have been very uncertain. In a Terrier of the parish we read the

'Furze Marsh is in the parish of Yarnton and pays 10*s.* to the Vicar of Yarnton, but that is no proof it is not in the Tything of Begbroke, many of the grounds in Yarnton paying tithe to Begbroke, viz. the Upper Clay, the Lower Clay, Long Mead, Ox Close, Oxford Close, and part of Ram Close. The Fitzherberts indeed pay yearly 15*s.* to the Vicar of Yarnton, but I believe no one can be certain what it is paid for³.'

The Tithes were commuted in 1845, the gross rent charge payable to the Titheowner in lieu of Tithes being computed at £155 per annum. The Tithe map was drawn up by Henry Dixon, and was sealed by the Commissioners on 8th April, 1840. In it 37*a.* 1*r.* 24*p.* are put down to the Rector. This perhaps does not include the Meadow Lots, as we are told that the Glebe was two yard-lands. The land-tax was redeemed by Dr. Cooke, Rector.

'Living here in the gift of Mr. R. Dashwood of Nethercote. Incumbent Mr. Thos. Stanley, of Brasenose College; a Rectory of about £60. House here belonging to John Fitzherbert, Esqr. Church dedicated to St. Michael whose image in Basso relievo over North Door. Two bells. Wake here Sunday after Michaelmas Day⁴.'

¹ Archidiaconal papers, vol. 2. Terriers.

³ Gough, 91.

² 41st Report of Deputy Keeper of Records, pp. 252, 324-328.

⁴ Rawlinson's account. B. 400 E. p. 37.

Immediately at the back of the church is the field called the 'Image Ground.' This may have had some connection with the statue of St. Michael or else with the maintenance of the 'Obit.'

THE CHURCH.

The church of Begbroke is a small Norman edifice containing chancel, nave and tower, but no aisles. The south door has a handsome round arch with zigzag mouldings supported by piers decorated with spiral and chevron bands. The north door has been built up, but the sill was uncovered in 1888 while preparing a place for a heating apparatus. Above this north door formerly stood the image of St. Michael, the Patron of the church. The tower which once contained two bells has no arch but a plain round headed door, and the roof is saddle-backed. The chancel arch corresponds with the south door, the mouldings zigzag and embattled. From the sinking of the foundations this arch was out of shape, and was carefully taken down by Mr. Ellis Ashton, the Rector, in 1845, and each stone, save one, faithfully replaced; at the same time he discovered the small upper window in the east wall and filled it with stained glass.

The east window is modern, and all the windows in the body of the church were put in by Mr. Thomas Robinson in 1828. They are two on each side, square-headed in the Perpendicular style. The stained glass was also his gift. In the chancel are two windows, one has ancient mouldings and glass with armorial bearings, modern, the second a small pointed window, the most beautiful in the church.

The font is plain comparatively modern, of an octagonal shape. At the same time when Mr. Robinson made his alterations he erected a gallery and repewed the church. His family vaults are beneath the nave, and a brass tablet under the south window has this inscription:—

'This window is erected as a tribute of filial affection to the memory of Thomas Robinson, formerly resident in and Benefactor to the Parish, who died May 1, 1848, and of Margaret, his wife, who died Dec. 11, 1835.'

In the north wall of the chancel a recess in the position of the aumbry remains, closed by a beautifully carved oak door evidently the original work, as the old lock remains and has all the appearance of being in the position it was made for. However, from the interior fitting some discussion has arisen as to the use this small recess was put to. The roof appears to have been originally hollowed out and a flue exists from the floor into the outer air, which would favour the idea that this has been a lamp niche, an idea further strengthened by

the perforations in the carved work of the door. At present the bottom is fitted with a revolving iron plate giving the appearance of a ventilator.

The recess measures inside 18 inches deep with the back semi-circular top hollow filled up with wood; bottom flat; flue going out level with the floor. Probably this was altered at the time of the church restorations.

Such niches are known to have been in use for the preservation of a light.

The dimensions of the church are:—Chancel, 21 ft. 4 in. by 14 ft. 9 in.; Nave, 33 ft. by 17 ft. 9 in.; Tower, 10 ft. 10 in. by 11 ft. 10 in.¹

1653. A Valuation of the Bailiwick of Hundred of Wootton of this year is extant. A return of the rents and profits was made in connection with the sale of the Royal Manor of Woodstock. Certain dues payable out of seventeen Tythings amount to £10. 'Buggbroke' is one of the number².

TOMBSTONES AND INSCRIPTIONS IN THE CHURCH.

Upon the north wall of the Chancel is a black marble tablet inscribed as follows:—

‘Sacred to the Memory.

‘Here underlyeth the body of Robert Fitzherbert, Esq., the eldest sonne of Humphrey Fitzherbert, Esq., of this parish. He dyed without issue, but having had 7 brothers, viz. John, Humphrey, Thomas, Henry, William, Walter, and Edmund, and three sisters, Dionysia, Sibell, and Ursula. He made his nephew John, second son to his 3rd brother Humphrie, his sole Executor, who piously erected this to his memory. After 62 years past in the true profession of the Faith of Christ he here resteth, expecting a glorious resurrection: Obiit die Octob: vicesimo, 1636.’

Upon the floor beneath the above is a white stone slab bearing a shield (with the three lioncells) and three inscriptions, viz.:—

‘Here lyeth the body of Thomas Fitzherbert, Esq., who died Oct. ye 14th, anno Dom. 1700, aged 48.

‘Here lyeth the body of John Fitzherbert, 2nd son of Thomas Fitzherbert, who died May 31, 1727, aged 50 years.

¹ Parker's Deanery of Woodstock.

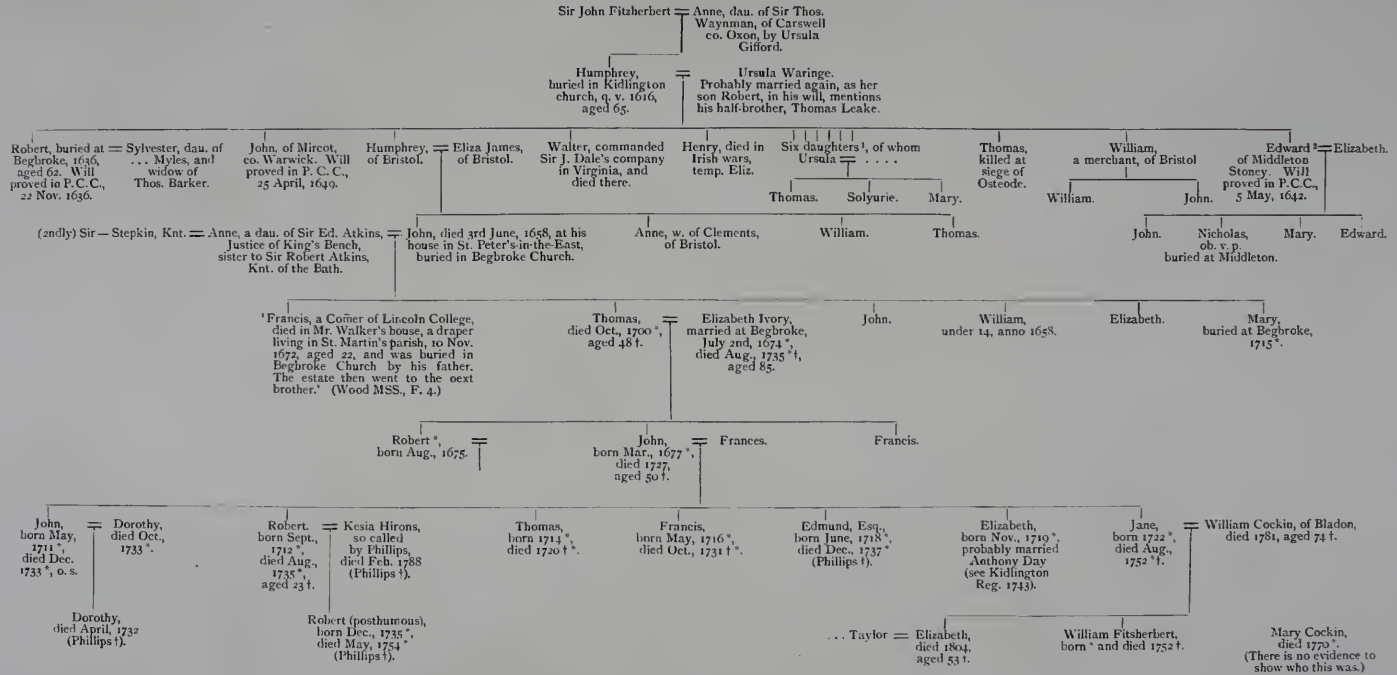
² Printed in Marshall's Woodstock, p. 215.

PEDIGREE OF FITZHERBERT OF BEGBROKE.

The first part of this Pedigree is taken from Wood MSS., F 21; from the year 1674, from the Parish Registers and monuments in church; supplemented by information from K. W. Murray, Esq., of the College of Arms, London. For some account of this family see History of Kidlington.

ARMS.

'The arms of this family, with their quarterings, are—1st. Gules, three lioncels rampant argent. 2nd. Argent, a chief vairé, over all a bendlet sable. 3rd. Argent, a fesse dancetté, inter three busters' horns sable, by the name of Elvedon, by an heiress in Hertfordshire (Dionis Elvedon, grandmother to Humphrey, of Kidlington), and who, through her ancestors, brought the rest of the coats quartered, viz.—4th. A fesse dancetté inter three talbots' heads erased gules, by the name of Hunsdon. 5th. Gules, a cross or, inter two lozenges above vairé argent and azure, and as many goats' heads erased below azure and or, by the name of Gatesby. 6th. Gules, a fleur-de-lys argent, by the name of Walsingham. 7th. A fesse embattled inter three scallops gules, by the name of Priditon. 8th. Sable, three dexter hands bendy, by the name of Handschutt. 9th. Azure, a bend inter six martlets, by the name of Mountney. This is from Mr. Fitzherbert's own writing in 1658, drawn up from Mr. J. Philpot's Visitation, 1634.' (Wood MSS., F 21.)



This mark * shows that the entry is in the Registers; this † that there is a monument in church.

Those marked (Phillips †) are from inscriptions once in the church given by Sir Thos. Phillips, in Parochial Coll. Oxon. Bod. Lib., caps. 6, 46.

¹ The six sisters were Dionis, Silsell, Ursula, Eliza, Dorothy, Margaret. Only three are mentioned upon the tombs, either at Kidlington or Begbroke. In Harleian Soc., vol. 5, it is said that Sibyl married George Morgan, of Glamorganshire. Ursula's grandson, Robert Kent, is mentioned in Robert Fitzherbert's will, 1636.

² 'Edward Fitzherbert had a property of his own at Middleton Stoney. He was stabbed by one Major Sweetman, in a barn at Middleton.' (Dr. Blomfield's, vol. 4, p. 40, Deanery of Bicester.)

‘Here lyeth the body of Robert Fitzherbert, 2nd son of John Fitzherbert, who died Aug. 3rd, 1735, aged 23 years.’

Upon the north wall of the Nave of the Church is a white marble tablet without armorial bearings :—

‘To the Memory of Jane, wife of William Cockin, and daughter of John Fitzherbert, who died Aug. 7th, 1752, aged 30 years; and William Fitzherbert, son of William and Jane Cockin, who died Oct. 11th, 1752, aged 10 weeks; also William Cockin, Esq., who died June 29th, 1781, aged 74; also Elizabeth Taylor, widow, daughter of above, who died March 6th, 1804, aged 53 years.’

These are all the monuments to the Fitzherbert family.

The following are from Parochial Collections, Oxon, by Sir Thos. Phillips, Evesham, 1825 :—

‘Francis Fitzherbert, 4th son of Thomas Fitzherbert. He died 1st Oct. 1738, aged . . .’

‘Edmund Fitzherbert, Esq. Died 18 Dec. 1737, aged 20.’

‘Elizabeth, relict of Thomas Fitzherbert. Died 26 Aug. 1735, aged 85.’

‘John Fitzherbert, Esq. Died 31 Dec., 1733, aged 22.’

‘Dorothy, daughter of John Fitzherbert, Esq., and Dorothy his wife. Who died in her infancy, 8 April, 1732.’

‘Robert, son of Robert Fitzherbert, Esq., and Kesiah, his wife. Died 4 May, 1754, aged 18 years.’

‘Kesiah Hiron, Relict of Robert Fitzherbert, Esq. Died 22nd Feb., 1788.’

None of these are now in the church.

In the Chancel are the following to several Rectors :—

On a white stone under the altar :—

‘Thomas Williams, hujus ecclesiae Rector, obiit nono die Julie an. 1686, aet. suae 77¹.’

On a small black oblong stone :—

‘Vincent Coventrie, hujus ecclesiae Rector, die Febij. 13, 1659, aet. suae 77.’

Below the above upon a white stone :—

‘Richard Tabor, hujus ecclesiae Rector, die Mar. 24, 170³/₄, aet. suae 47.’

¹ Rawlinson, 400 C. p. 215.

At the entrance and nearly worn out :—

‘ John Manning, Minister of God’s Word, 14 Nov., 1680, aged 59.’

This following is from Rawlinson, u. s., and not there now :—

‘ Susanna, the Relict of John Manning, Rector of the Parish, died May 24, A.D. 1688, aged 70 years.’

The following also in the Chancel :—

‘ The Rev. Richard Hawkins, Rector, died Nov. 21, 1764, aged 62.’

‘ Elizabeth, wife of above, Dec. 14th, 1764, aged 50.’

‘ Richard, son of above, April 12th, 1776, aged 22 ¹.’

‘ James, son of above 1751, aged 3 years.’

‘ Charles, son of above, May 22nd, 1745, aged 6 days.’

‘ Thomas Cook, Rector, died 17th Feb., 1776. Aged 55.’

Dr. John Cook, brother to above, is said to have been buried in the chancel probably in the same grave; there is no inscription to his memory.

At the church door lies an ancient stone coffin with the original cover. It is said by tradition to have contained the body of the Founder of the church. When opened by the present Rector fragments of human bones were still found in it.

¹ ‘ Richard Hawkins, son of Rd. H. June, 1672, aged 18.’ Foster’s Alumni,
Rector, matriculated Merton Coll. 27 Ox.

CHAPTER III.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REGISTER OF BEGBROKE.

EYONS FAMILY.

- 1672 JOHN EYONS, son to Mr. Anthony Eyons, born Easter Day, 7th April.
1673 Mrs. Jane Eyons was baptised, 23rd Oct.
1676 Mrs. Theodosia Eyons baptised 18th July.
1680 Elizabeth Eyons, dau. of Mr. Anthony Eyons, and Dorothy his wife, bap. 6 Sept.
1703 Mrs. Dorothy, the wife of Mr. Anthony Eyons, buried 13 Feb.
1706 Thomas Eyons, the son of Mr. Anthony Eyons, Gent., buried in the Chancel.
1707 Anthony Eyons, Gent., buried 26 Nov. in the Chancel.
- 1704 Richard Tabor, Rector, buried 27 March.
1744 Benjamin Swete, Esq., buried 25th April¹.

HAWKINS FAMILY.

- 1745 Charles, son of the Rev. Mr. R. Hawkins and Elizabeth, his wife, born 14 May; buried on 22nd May.
1747 James, son do. born; buried 1751.
1754 Richard, son do. born; buried 1776.
1764 The Rev. Mr. Hawkins, Rector of Begbroke, was buried 25 Nov.
„ Mrs. Hawkins, widow of above, buried 14th Dec.
- 1776 The Rev. Mr. Cooke, Rector, was buried 21 Feby.

¹ Benjamin Swete is buried in the church-yard under a sarcophagus-shaped tomb bearing his name and arms: viz.

Between 2 chevronels, three mullets. Crest, a mullet.

- 1782 Susan Martha, dau. of Rev. Thomas Treacher, and Mary his wife,
 bap. 7 Feb.
 1783 George, son of above, bap. Feb.
 1784 Lucy, dau. of above, bap.
 1785 Anne, dau. of above, bap.

Marriages :—

- 1665 Thomas Irons and Ann Alderton.
 1675 John Tustin of Kidlington, to Mary Ivory, of the s^d town, 21 June,
 per license.
 1664 Thomas Breadwater and Elizabeth Glover.
 „ John Hanwell and Elizabeth Cozier, of Woodstock.
 1672 Simon Hayes of Thrupp, and Mary Howse, of the same.
 1677 William Stocker and Joane Pearte, of Kidlington, in Begbroke
 church.
 1680 Christopher Swann and Joanna Hitchman, of Gosworth.
 „ Will. Hyde, of St. John, Oxon, and Ann Gourdan, of Kidlington.
 1699 19 April. Mr. Thomas Andrews of Cardiff, co. Glamorgan, and
 Mrs. Elizabeth Pudsey, of Kidlington, per license.
 1700 John Bond, of Marcham, and Mary George, of Kidlington.
 „ Thomas Constable and Mary Dew, of Yarnton.
 1701 Richard Webb and Elizabeth Stympton, of Kidlington.
 „ Michael More, of Oxford, and Margaret Cuell, of Kidlington.
 1707 Barton and Mary Fennemore, by license.
 1711 Mr. Charles Tabor and Mrs. Ann Bacon. License.
 1753 John Roberts and Alice Morris, both of Yarnton.
 „ Richard Gammon, of Drayton, Oxon, and Elizabeth Cantwell, of
 Kidlington.

FITZHERBERT FAMILY.

- 1674 Mr. Thomas Fitzherbert to Elizabeth Ivory. License. 2nd July.
 1675 Mr. Robert Fitzherbert, son of Mr. Thomas F. and Elizabeth his
 wife, born 6th Aug.
 1677 Mr. John Fitzherbert, son of above, born 29 May.
 1711 John, the son of John Fitzherbert, Gent., born 24 May.
 1712 Robert Fitzherbert, bap. 11 Sept.
 1714 Thomas Fitzherbert, bap. 6 May, buried 23rd May, 1720.
 1716 Francis, son of John Fitzherbert, Esq., 2nd May bap.
 1718 Edmund, son of John Fitzherbert, 12 June bap.
 1719 Elizabeth ¹, dau. of John Fitzherbert, 26 Nov. bap.

¹ '1743. May 10. By License. woman, Green, grand-daughter to the
 Anthony Day to Eliza Herbert.' Kid- above Day, that he married a Fitz-
 lington Reg. I was told by an old herbert, who died with her first child.

- 1722 Jane, the dau. of above, Esq., bap. 9th April, buried Aug. 7th, 1752.
 1735 Robert, son of the late Robert Fitzherbert, and Kesiah his wife,
 bap. 21 Dec.
- 1700 Mr. Thomas Fitzherbert was buried in woollen 17th Oct., 1700.
 1715 Mrs. Mary Fitzherbert buried 15 Nov.
 1720 Thomas, son of John Fitzherbert, Esq., 23rd May buried.
 1731 Francis, the son of John and Francis Fitzherbert, buried 3rd Oct.
 1733 Dorethy, wife of John Fitzherbert, Esq., buried Oct.
 1733-4 John Fitzherbert, Esq., 3rd Jan. buried.
 1735 Robert Fitzherbert, Esq., buried 6th Aug.
 „ Elizabeth, the Relict of Thomas Fitzherbert, Esq., buried 27 Aug.
 1737 Edmund, son of John Fitzherbert, Esq., buried 15 Dec.
 1754 Robert Fitzherbert buried 6th May.
 1752 Jane, wife of William Cockin, of Bladon, buried Aug. (Fitzherbert).
 „ William Fitzherbert Cockin, son of William Cockin and above,
 buried Oct.
 1781 William Cockin, buried 1st July.

In the Churchyard :—

‘ Ronald Augustus Royd Smith, born at Southrop, Sep. 20th, 1852.
 Died at Begbroke, March 29, 1883.’

Mrs. Smith, the mother of above, with her family came to settle at
 the Manor House in November, 1881. She died there in 1888.

‘ To the Memory of John Bristow, son of Abraham and Rachel Bristow
 (born in this village), who, after performing 12 voyages to the East Indies,
 and residing 12 years at Diamond Harbour, Bengal, died at Woodstock,
 14th May, 1838, aged 70 years, and was buried here by his own desire.’

‘ Reader make the best use of thy life for thou must also die.’

‘ John Bristow, Esq., by his will directed the Dividend of £150 stocks in
 the 3 per cent. consolidated Banks annuities, to be paid to the Clerk of this
 parish for the Time being for the Reparation and keeping in good order
 this monument.’

There was an Abraham Bristow, the owner of a cottage and Malt
 House in Kidlington, in the year the Enclosure Award was made.

He then remarried. One of the Fitz- chest of linen with Day and it was
 herberts going away (the old woman never claimed.
 said he was a ‘warrior’) left a large

‘Abraham Bristow, Surgeon and Apothecary, died at Cassington, 21st Feby., 1789.’ He was coroner for the county¹.

BRIEFS AND COLLECTIONS.

Collected towards St. Alban's:—Mr. Anthony Eyans, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Thos. Fitzherbert, 1s.; Mr. Thos. Williams, 1s.; Cruckmeal, nothing collected; Ely Cathedral, 1s. 4d.; Thames River, 1s. 4d.; Robert Bales, nothing; Horsmonden, 1s. 1d.; Bramley Church, 1s. 1d.; Beckles, 1s. 7d.

ACCOUNT OF THE POPULATION.

(From the Register book.)

1801. ‘March 10. On an actual enumeration of the inhabitants made this day, by order of the Government, they were found to be 80 in number, of whom 40 were males and 40 females. There were also 15 houses.’

1811. ‘May 27. An account of the Population of Begbroke was taken according to Act of Parliament. It was found that the number was 118, that is 39 males and 79 females, and that the difference between this number and the number in 1801 is to be ascribed to the establishment of a boarding school for young ladies at Begbroke House.’

1821. ‘May 30. Inhabited houses, 20; Number of families, 20; Building and uninhabited, 0; Families in agriculture, 16; Families in trade, &c., 2; Families not included in above, 2; Males, 52; Females, 50. Since 1811 the boarding school has been removed. The agricultural poor amount to 30 males and 31 females, employed upon 5 farms.’

1831. Males, 53; Females, 49; Families, 23; Persons, 102.

1841. Houses, 23; Males, 67; Females, 43.

Begbroke House at this time empty.

1851. March 31. Males, 51; Females, 48.

Begbroke House and Rectory occupied.

PARISH REGISTER ABSTRACT, 1831, p. 257.

Government Returns.

Begbroke—Register. No. I. Baptisms, Burials and Marriages, 1664 to 1743 (very defective). No. II. from 1744 to 1812. (A small book in parchment transcribed by Dr. Thomas.)

¹ Gough, Add. Oxon, 4^o, 49.

Kidlington—Registers Nos. I, II, III. Baptisms—1579 to 1604. 1609 to 1668. 1675 to 1812. Burials—1574 to 1604. 1607 to 1644. 1648 to 1713. 1721 to 1812. Marriages—1574 to 1651. 1653 to 1713. 1721 to 1752. No. IV. Marriages—1754 to 1812. (Well bound and mostly well kept. The first part transcribed.)

Yarnton—Registers No. I, II, III. Baptisms and Burials—1569 to 1767. Marriages—1569 to 1753, interrupted by No. IV. Baptisms and Burials—1765 to 1812, No. V. Marriages—1754 to 1812. (The first three parchment well preserved and well kept.)

BENEFACTIONS, &c.

1. The tables containing the Ten Commandments were presented by Margaret, wife of Francis Rivington, Esq., 10th July, 1816.

2. The Communion cloth by Thos. Robinson, Esq., 25th Dec., 1816.

3. The pulpit Cushion by Miss Matilda Smith and her brother T. Smith, Esq., and the young ladies of Begbroke House Boarding School, who also embroidered the cross and glory upon the front of the altar cloth.

4. The pulpit cloth was also given by the same.

1829-30. 'The Parish allowed the use of an instrument to John Fathers, Mason, on condition of his using it every Sunday in the Church. The Curate likewise agreed to pay him 10s. every January for his trouble.'

1839. 'Easter. An organ with 2 barrels was presented to the church by Thomas Robinson, Esq.'

1843. 'Christmas. Two altar service books were presented by Rev. Mr. Richards, of Begbroke House.'

1844. 'Easter. A carved oak chair, and cushion for the same, presented by the Rev. J. W. Richards, curate.'

He lived at the Manor House and died there.

1845. 'Two carved oak chairs presented by Thomas Robinson, Esq., of Yarnton.'

These two arm chairs carved all over; one representing the Baptism of Our Lord and the Epiphany, the other the Sacrifice of Abraham and the Resurrection.

1744. 24th March. Mr. Swete's legacy, £1 1s. 0d. to each of ten families.

Dr. Cook's legacy given away in a variety of articles of male and female apparel; £20 by Dr. V. Thomas, officiating minister.

DISBANDING THE ARMY.

The following receipts are preserved in the Register:—

1679. '17th November. Received of Stephen Young, Collector, the sum of £2 11s. 7½*d.* for the fifth quarterly payment of the Month's Assessment upon Begbroke, by virtue of an Act of Parliament, entitled an Act for granting a supply to his Majesty of £619,388 11s. 9*d.* for disbanding the Army and other uses mentioned therein.'

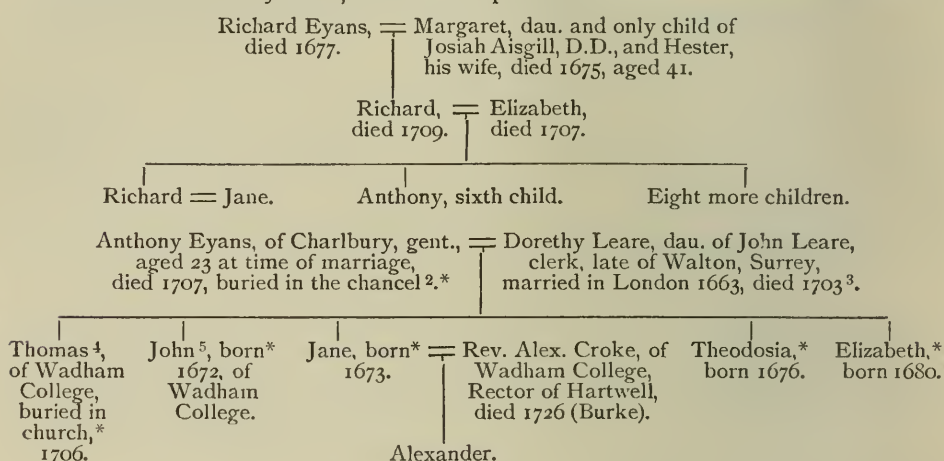
1679. 27th Aug. The same.

1680. 18th May. The same.

1680. 17th Aug. The same.

PEDIGREE OF EYANS, OF BEGBROKE MANOR.

'The family of Eyans settled at Enstone about the year 1661. They possessed the property connected with the chantry there; their house is pulled down ¹.'



Stone in Enstone church:—

'Margaret, the wife of Richard Eyans, dau. and only child of Josuah Aisgill, Dr. of Div., and Hester his wife, aged 41, departed this life July 1, an. 1675.'

Arms, Eyans, impaling—A fesse between three asses' heads coupé ⁶.

¹ Jordan's History of Enstone, p. 373.

² Those marked * from Begbroke Register.

³ London Marriage Licenses.—Ches-ter.

⁴ 'Thomas Eyans, son of Anthony Eyans. Matriculated 1702, at 16. Scholar 1703. Goodridge Exhibitioner 1704-5. B.A. 1706.

⁵ 'John Eyans, Matriculated, 13 March, 1688, son of Anthony Eyans of

Bagbroke, Oxon, gent., aet. 15, admitted Scholar, 1690, aged 17. Goodridge Exhibitioner, 1693-4-5. B.A., 1692. M.A., 1695. Fellow, 1698. Bursar, 1699-1702. Junior Proctor, 1703. Died 23 June, 1716. Probably buried in Chapel, where there is a stone marked "J. E. 1719." From R. B. Gardiner's Reg. of Wadham College.

⁶ Wood MS. C 10.

THE MANOR IN RECENT TIMES.

After the attainder and death of Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, and the sale of his lands, the first name we meet with in the Manor of Begbroke is that of Anthony Eyans, and for this we are indebted to Dr. Plot's history. Only one generation of this family appears in the Register, the last name occurring in 1707. Nothing further appears until the year 1744 when Benjamin Swete was buried, and from various circumstances we are led to infer that he was Lord of the Manor and also Patron of the fourth presentation to the Rectory, which he seems to have purchased from Mrs. Jane Marwood, a member of the Spencer family.

About the year 1810 the house was occupied by Miss Matilda Smith and her brother, who kept a boarding school for young ladies. This school did not continue very long as it had ceased before 1821 when the census was taken.

Thomas Robinson, Esq., Banker of Oxford, was the next owner, and for some years he and his family resided here: after his death Mr. Robinson's heirs sold the property, and in 1845 the Duke of Marlborough is returned as landlord, with Morrison as his tenant. The house was subsequently rented by Lord Allan Churchill until about 1870, and after lying empty for five years it was bought (Nov. 1881) by Mr. Smith¹, formerly of Southrop and Swerford, whose sisters still retain it.

The second estate in the parish is known as Begbroke Hill. We have no certain evidence to tell us whether this represents the estate of the Giffords, but it is probably the same.

Since the early part of the seventeenth century it had belonged to the Fitzherbert family, who came from Hertfordshire and settled first at Kidlington². Humphrey Fitzherbert in all probability built this house, he is styled of Begbroke upon his tomb at Kidlington. Robert, his eldest son, succeeded him, who, dying without issue, left the estate to the second son of his third brother. In a pedigree of the family given in Wood³ six daughters are mentioned; upon the monuments in the two churches of Kidlington and Begbroke, only three. Of the

¹ No relation to the Smiths above nor to those of Kidlington.

² See Kidlington history, p. 90.

³ F 21.

eight brothers three died abroad serving in the army, and one was killed in a duel at Middleton Stony. A confused tradition of these 'warriors' and of the duel still lingers in the village. The family appears to have been very short lived, the last Squire Robert dying in 1754, aged 19. The estate then reverted to his niece Mrs. Taylor, only surviving child of Will. and Jane Cockin. Tradition says that Mr. Taylor proved himself a cruel and unworthy husband, who more than on one occasion attempted his wife's life, but she survived him. In her will Mrs. Taylor bequeathed her property to three neighbours who had befriended her during her husband's lifetime.

To Young she left the house and land adjoining ; to Bayliss the house near the church with land (now belonging to Sir G. Dashwood), and to Morris¹, the house with land now called 'The Elms.'

Young sold his share to Mr. Robinson, and it passed to the Marlboroughs. The house is a fine Jacobean dwelling-house with projecting porch and two stories above it. When the avenue in front and the trees around it were standing in their beauty it must have worn an appearance of homelike comfort of which it is now bereft, standing as it does upon the rising ground lonely and unsheltered.

The third estate mentioned in the Hundred Rolls, the demesne of the Prioress of Stodley, we may look for in the ancient farmhouse known as Begbroke Hall. The lands of the Prioress were sold to Croke of Stodley, and this house was included.

Some portion of Begbroke was evidently the property of the Spencers of Yarnton, and appears to have been bought by the Dashwood family from them.

The names of some of the fields remind us of the families formerly owning them. 'Every's Marsh,' no doubt Ivory, with whom the Fitzherberts intermarried ; 'Dolton,' 'Duncrofts,' 'Renchies.' The 'Hop ground,' and 'Dill ground' remind us of old forms of husbandry, and 'Hart's Marsh' and 'Roewell' Brook of the days of the forest. Two fields called the 'Hades' are mentioned in Begbroke. This word is given in Halliwell's Dictionary as meaning a ridge of land. In another place it is said to mean a slope, the same word 'Hade or Adit' in a mine ; consequently these fields were probably those called Hilly grounds in the Tithe Map.

¹ Notice of Morris, see Yarnton, p. 311.

The Marshes lying between Yarnton and Kidlington, part of the parish of Begbroke, were the property of Fitzherbert. Mrs. Hirons is named as being the owner of part. She seems to have been the widow of the last Fitzherbert. The whole Marshes were in the hands of Dr. Smith of Kidlington.

Dr. Bouchier, of Handborough, left his property to his daughter, wife of Dr. Joseph Smith¹, LL.D., some of which lying in Begbroke, he had obtained from the Brents. The farm between the two parishes upon the Canal, known as 'Bouchier's,' is probably this land.

AREA OF THE THREE PARISHES.

(From the published Census Tables for 1881, vol. 2, p. 137.)

Begbroke	577 statute acres.	17 houses.	68 persons.
Kidlington	2194 w. „ „	282 „	1087 „
Thrup	813 w. „ „	36 „	139 „
Gosford	260 w. „ „	11 „	40 „
Water Eaton	1501 w. „ „	26 „	128 „
Cutteslowe	282 „ „	3 „	23 „
Yarnton	1493 w. „ „	67 „	279 „
	7120		

Land common to Yarnton and Begbroke:—Oxey mead, 151 w. acres; Pixey Mead, 51 w. acres (w. signifies that water constitutes a portion of the area).

TABLE OF RATES IN THE YEAR ENDING EASTER, 1803.

(From Young's Annals of Agriculture in Oxon.)

	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Begbroke	3	3	in the pound.	Total raised	57	18 2½
Kidlington	5	3½	„	„	384	9 8½
Thrup	3	4	„	„	55	12 10½
Gosford	2	0	„	„	33	11 2
Water Eaton	1	10	„	„	85	2 11
Yarnton	5	0	„	„	329	8 6

¹ See Kidlington, p. 80.

THE LOCAL MILITIA.

The parish books contain many entries relating to men serving in the militia, or else for pay to the substitutes and the care of their families. By an Act of 30th George II, the National Militia, which had been in abeyance for many years, was again raised owing to the panic throughout the country, fearing a French invasion.

‘Oxfordshire was divided into districts, and in the 1st or Western Division Yarnton and Begbroke were incorporated. The full force of the Regiment was 603 men, commanded by Lord Francis Almeric Spenser, Lieut.-Colonel. The Hundreds of Bampton and part of Banbury supplied 280 men, and the following parishes 91 amongst them—Wootten Hundred, Woodstock, Bladen, Cassington, Church and Long Handborough, Yarnton, Begbroke, Worton, Ensham, Coggs, Wilcot, Stanton Harcourt, South Leigh, Shipton on Cherwell, Dunsthorp, and Showell¹.’

Yarnton and Shipton provided one man between them.

There does not appear to be any account extant of the remaining portions of the regiment, including Kidlington; the orderly books and other archives were destroyed within very recent times².

¹ Dr. Symonds' MSS. vol. 4.

² J. M. Davenport, Oxford Militia.

APPENDIX TO THE HISTORY OF KIDLINGTON.

Page 11. FROM Camden's Britannia (Gibson), vol. 1, p. 298:—

‘King Henry III granted Hooknorton and Cudlington to John de Plessets which were the inheritance of Henry d'Oiley, and fell into the King's hands upon the death of Margery, Countess of Warwick, wife of the aforesaid John, as an escheat of the Normans, to have and to hold till such time as the Lands of England and Normandy should be made common.’

From Pipe Roll, 15 Henry II, vol. 13, p. 85.

Aids from Oxfordshire to the King towards marrying his daughter.

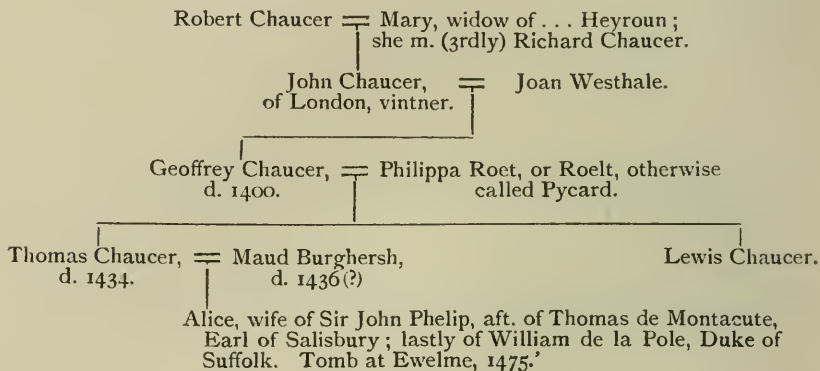
‘The Men of Cudelinton and Weston owe 40s.’

Page 13. From Hundred Rolls, vol. 2, p. 873:—

‘Cudelington. Hug' de Pleci tenet manerium de Cudelington et vill. de domino Regis in capite de feodo Doyly per servicium militar' et ht visum franci pleg' de hominibus suis s'n Vic' et aliis Ball' domini Reg' et hat furcas super tenet suam quo warento nescimus et tenet in dominio ij carrucat' terre faciend' domino Reg' tpe guerre servic' uni milit' per xl dies ad custum suum proprium.’

Page 26. The following has kindly been sent to the writer by Henry Gough, Esq., of Red Hill, Surrey. It will be found to corroborate the statement in note, p. 26 :—

‘ THE CHAUCER FAMILY.



As to the poet's ancestry, Mr. Walter Rye's article in *The Athenæum* of 29 Jan., 1881, is worth consideration. No doubt the name originally meant shoemaker.

The arms on the seal of John Chaucer, said to be the poet's father, are ermine, on a chief—3 bird's heads erased. Some take them to be the heads of herons, and suppose them to be derived from the family of Heyroun above-mentioned. See an article by Mrs. Haweis, headed 'More News of Chaucer,' in *Belgravia*, July, 1882, and a paper on 'John Chaucer's Seal,' in *The Antiquarian Magazine*, edited by Edward Walford, vol. 3, p. 82, 1883. It seems doubtful whether this John Chaucer was of the poet's family at all.

Sir Payne Roelt, or Roet, a knight of Hainault, and Guienne King-of-arms, had, it is said, two daughters and co-heirs, Philippa and Katherine. No particulars of his pedigree have been discovered. His arms, in allusion to his name, were gules, 3 katherine wheels, or. Philippa, his eldest daughter, is stated to have been maid of honour to Queen Philippa. By the name of Philippa Pycard, she obtained a grant of 100s. per annum, in Jan. 1370, and married Geoffrey Chaucer. A writer in *Excerpta Historica* (1831, p. 155) says that the circumstance of the lady 'being styled Philippa Pycard, instead of Roelt, renders the assertion that she was the sister of the Duchess of Lancaster extremely doubtful.' The fact however that the arms of Roet were impaled upon the tomb of the Duchess of Lancaster (3rd wife and widow of John of Gaunt) in Lincoln cathedral, and that the same arms of Roet appear on the Chaucer tombs at Ewelme,

may be regarded as sufficient evidence that the wife of Geoffrey Chaucer and the wife of John, Duke of Lancaster, were of the same family. As to the name Pycard, it is possible that Philippa was a widow.

The foregoing pedigree of Chaucer is probably as complete and accurate as our present information will enable us to make it. Though the fact is still disputed, it is clear that Thomas Chaucer of Ewelme was the elder son of Geoffrey. He appears to have used the arms of *Roet*, not those commonly ascribed to *Chaucer*.

The arms of *Roet* impaling *Burghersh* were formerly in a window of the chapel of Woodstock, as was also a shield of *Chaucer* impaling *Burghersh*. *Roet* impaling *Burghersh*, and *Roet* quartering *Burghersh*, are found on the monument of Thomas Chaucer at Ewelme, and also on that of the Duchess of Suffolk, but the usual arms of Chaucer do not appear on either. The inference is that Thomas Chaucer abandoned the arms of his own family for the nobler coat of *Roet*, dignified by an alliance with royalty. And this appears to indicate very plainly that he was indeed the son of Geoffrey the poet.

Roet and *Burghersh* impaled are clearly the arms of Thomas Chaucer and his wife, and the two coats quartered are just as clearly the parental insignia of the Duchess of Suffolk.

Thomas Chaucer or Chaweser was named an executor of the will of Philippa, Duchess of York, 1430¹."

Page 36. Terms of the New Settlement of the Vicarage of Kidlington.

After the death of the Rector, Dr. Lightfoot, in March 1887, it was thought advisable to make some change in the ancient arrangement which united the Vicarage to the Rectorship. Upon the consideration that some subsequent Rector of Exeter College might not be in Orders it was agreed to separate the two offices.

The accompanying memorandum is supplied to the writer by the kindness of the present Rector.

'Exeter College, 2d May, 1892. The Vicarage of Kidlington was separated from the Rectorship of Exeter College, and the advowson was transferred to the College in December 1882. The University Commission which was then sitting, and the College desired to remove the

¹ 'Testamenta Vetusta,' p. 219.

Clerical restriction which had been attached to the Rectorship under the previous statutes, but were unable to do so while the Rector was *ex officio* Vicar of Kidlington. The College therefore with the concurrence of the University Commission and the consent of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, purchased the Advowson for the sum of £2050, and placed the purchase money in trust for the benefit of the Rectorship of Exeter College. The patronage of the Living then passed into the hands of the College.'

Page 58. The shield in the east window, said to be unknown, is found to be that of Edmund de Stafford, Bishop of Exeter 1394-1419. With some other pieces of stained glass it is said to have been brought here from the old Hall of Exeter College, and has no connection with the history of this place.

Page 79. From History of the Conant Family, by Fred Odell-Conant, of Portland, Maine, U. S., 1887.

These remarks from the above book will supplement what is said in our text about Dr. Conant and his family.

Extracts from the will of Dr. Conant, Rector of Exeter College.

'To my son John Conant of Kidlington, Dr. of Laws, all my lands in Northamptonshire in trust for my wife.'

From the will of Elizabeth (Reynolds) his mother:—

'£10 each to my son John and his wife for mourning. To the Poor of Kidlington, Oxon, £5. Residue to my son John, LL.D., of Kidlington.'

'Dr. Conant in early life settled in London and became an eminent advocate of Doctors' Commons, but was compelled by delicate health to seek retirement in the country. He then settled in Kidlington, where he died, leaving no children. He bequeathed to Dr. Lane of Banbury £2 and a spring clock. His brother Edward married Mary Pocock in 1697, she died 1698 and was buried in the church of All Hallows, Bread Street, London.'

The above extracts will modify what is said in our text at page 79; it appears to have been the brother, not the son, of Dr. Conant who was then married. The marriages of Dr. Lane and of Charles Burras, both of Banbury, will be found at page 192. Both these names are mentioned in connection with the Conant family in their History, as above. The will of Madam Conant is in the office of Mr. Percival Walsh, Oxford, late Dayman and Walsh.

Page 97. From Wood, Clark, vol. 2, p. 361. Sir William Morton owned the island which had been the property of the Grey Friars, Oxford,

‘in right of his wife Anne, daughter and heir of John Smyth of Oxford, gent.’

further,

‘August 25th, 1670. Two of Sir William Morton’s daughters were buried at Kidlington; the eldest was named Anne, the other Magdalen. As for shee that was between them, was stolen away last May by a journeyman draper in Chancery Lane neare the Rolls Tavern.’

This must have been Cecily, see Pedigree.

Page 102. From the Chartulary of Osney Abbey in Christ Church, Oxford (Library of the Dean and Chapter), page 36:—

‘An Indenture between Osney Abbey and Robert Rastell for two virgates of land in Water Eaton. Robert d’Oiley confirmed the gift of Rastell and his heirs, in fee and in perpetuity, of half a hide of land, pasture and tenants held by William Rastell in Eton, of 10 shillings annual rent; 5 shillings to be paid at Michaelmas and 5 shillings at Lady Day, and at the Nativity of our Lord one sextary of honey and one loaf and two capons or four hens. And the same Robert for himself and his heirs quit claimed to the Abbot and Convent and their successors whatever rights he might have in the above mentioned lands. To which he set his hand and did homage to the Abbot.’

Page 105. From the 2nd Report of Royal Commissions of Historical MSS., p. 132:—

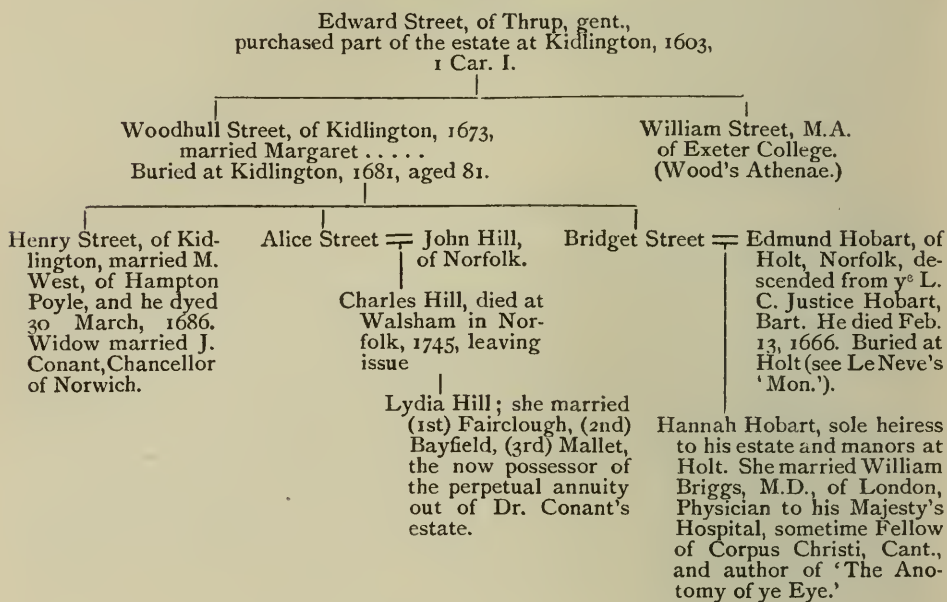
‘Alderman Frere was a noted chirurgeon and being employed by King Henry the 8th about the year 1537 to (attend upon) Queen Jane in order to save the life of his son afterwards Edward 6th, had the manors of Wolvercote, Yarnton and Water Eaton given him by the King for that service. His house in Oxford stood in the sight of the King’s Head Tavern. His son was knighted. He sold Wolvercote and Godstow to Sir John Walter, Yarnton to Mr. Spencer and Water Eaton which was his summer seat to’

This was taken from a volume in Lincoln College. The whole story appears very doubtful. We have the original deeds of sale for Water Eaton and Yarnton for the above date, and neither is to the parties named.

The annexed Pedigrees are copied from a MS. Book written by Dr. Joseph Smith, and now in the possession of Dr. Magrath, Provost of Queen's College, who has kindly allowed the writer to copy them. Although they have come to hand since the text was printed, they nowise invalidate the previous statements, but supply several further particulars of interest.

PEDIGREE OF STREET, OF THRUP.

(See page 78 supra.)

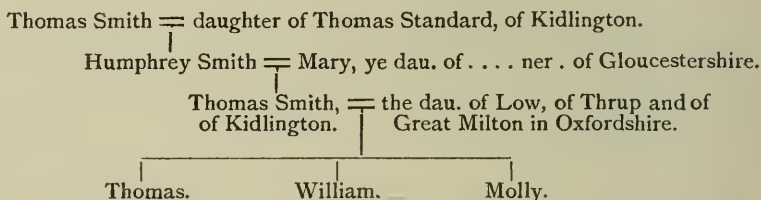


BRENT (see p. 123 supra).

Brent = Eddows, of Monmouth.

Roger Brent sold Thrup; he was Rector of St. Toll's.

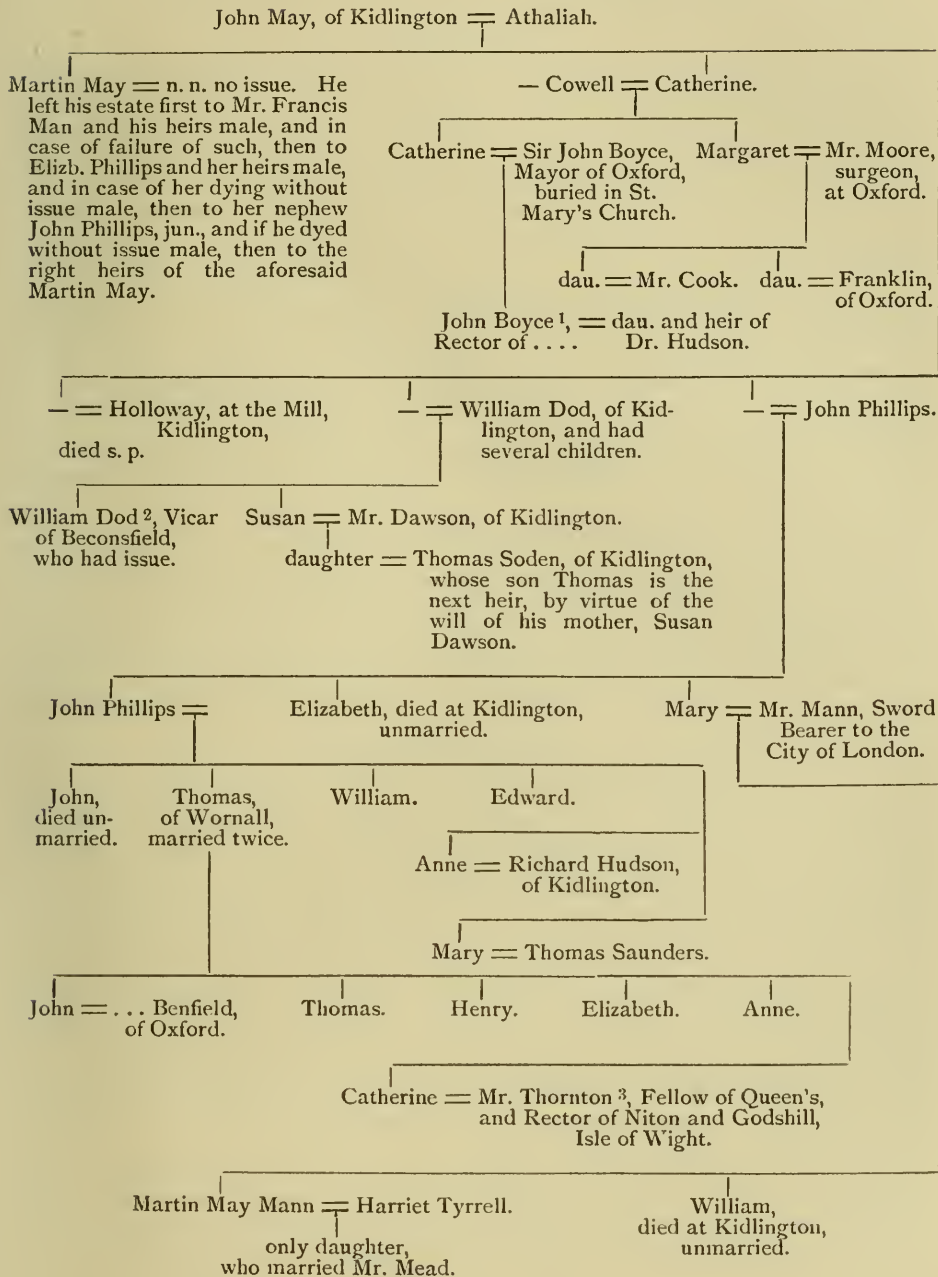
PEDIGREE OF SMITH, OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND OF CASSINGTON (see p. 88 supra).



This shows that Humphrey Smith, the High Sheriff, left issue. I have been unable to pursue this family further; the Registers of St. Clement's, Oxford, have yielded nothing.

PEDIGREE OF MAY, MAN, PHILIPS, AND HUDSON.

(See pp. 134, 143, 144, 145.)



¹ John Boyce, son of John, of St. Mary's, Oxon, arm. Ch. Ch., matric. 7 July, 1727, aged 16; B.A. 1731; M.A. 1735. Foster's Alum.

² Will. Dod, son of Will. of Kidlington, Oxon, pleb. Trinity Coll. matric. 27 Feb., 1690, aged 16; B.A. 1694; M.A. from Exeter Coll. 1697; Vicar of Dorney, Bucks, 1699. Foster's Alum.

³ William Thornton, son of Christopher, of Musgrave, Westmoreland, Cler. Queen's Coll., matric. 15 March, 1715, aged 18; B.A. 1720; M.A. 1723. Foster's Alum.

THE CHAPEL OF THE HOSPITALLERS AT GOSFORD.

From the Chartulary of Osney, Ch. Ch. MS. 24, fol. 47 f. :—

GOSEFORD.

Composition between us and the hospitallers of the chapel of Goseford.

To all sons of our holy mother the church to whom the present writing shall come, the Prior and Subprior of Dunstable, health in the Lord. We have received the command of our lord the Pope in these words: Gregory, bishop, servant of the servants of God, to our beloved sons the Prior and Subprior of Dunstable in the diocese of Lincoln, health and apostolic benediction. Our beloved sons the abbot and convent of the monastery of Osney, complaining to us have shown that the brothers of the Hospital of Jerusalem in England of the diocese of Lincoln have presumed to construct anew a certain oratory within the limits of their parish of Kidlington, to their prejudice and injury.—Therefore we command your discretions by apostolic writings that the parties being summoned you hear the cause, and terminate it by a proper decision without appeal, causing those things which you have decreed to be observed on pain of severe ecclesiastical censure. But the witnesses who shall have been summoned, if they by favour, malice, or fear, shall have withdrawn themselves, you shall oblige them by the same censure without appeal to give witness to the truth. Given at Spoleto, the second of the ides of July, in the sixth year of our pontificate. Therefore by authority of this mandate, the parties being lawfully represented before us by their proctors, namely the abbot and convent of Osney by brother E., Canon, a proctor lawfully appointed for settling and transacting business on one side, and the hospitallers aforesaid by Master P. de Radnor, proctor lawfully appointed for settling and transacting business on the other side, in the cause arising between them concerning the said oratory, the dispute between them has been arranged by this amicable ending, namely, that the said Hospitallers possess the said oratory of Goseford according to the extent of the privileges granted them by the apostolic see. And the proctor of the same hospitallers for this purpose specially appointed, in the name of the said Hospitallers has promised in good faith that neither the hospitaller nor the secular chaplain shall admit to divine service in the same oratory the parishioners of the mother church, neither shall he receive ‘annuale vel triennale’ nor do anything else that may be the due of the mother church on occasion of the said oratory, to the prejudice or loss of the mother church. The said proctor has also promised in the name of his lords that his lords shall observe the said conditions and shall cause them to be observed by those under them. The same conditions, if it shall happen to the said hospitallers to build oratories in other parishes of the said Canons, shall be observed fully and with good faith. And we lovers of peace approving this arrangement and confirming the same by the setting of our seals, with the consent of the parties, decree that perpetual jurisdiction be

reserved to us and our successors, to enforce the observance of the said composition without appeal. So that, if one or other party shall oppose the said arrangement in any respect, we may be able by sentence of excommunication to compel the party not fulfilling these conditions to their full observance, and to the repayment of losses and expenses, the parties being present, or in the absence of one of them contumaciously, without appeal, and by every resource of law. Given in the year of grace mcccxxiiij, on the Monday next before the Annunciation of our Lady, in the church of Dunstable.

Page 128. Louse Hall, Gosford.

From 'John Ogilby's roads.' Published 1675. Gough Maps, 100. Road from Oxford to Cambridge, map 80. A tenement exactly opposite to the entrance to Water Eaton Lane and corresponding with the present public-house, is marked "Lowse Hall," so called by the Scholars.'

The following is a reprint from an article printed in the *Kidlington Magazine* in 1885; written by the Rev. C. F. H. Johnstone, then acting as Curate, chiefly from the recollections of Mr. John Rand, for many years the Parish Clerk.

KIDLINGTON PARISH CHURCH SIXTY YEARS AGO.

'Sixty years ago our church was very differently arranged from its present condition; there were no seats except in the chancel, the nave, and the south aisle; and the nave was separated from the rest of the church by the wooden screen, which now lies against the wall behind the organ.

The glass, which now fills the east window in the chancel, was then in different windows in other parts of the church. The ceiling of the chancel was of flat boarding, running far below the roof, so as to cut off the top part of the window; and the only seats were those which run along the screens, and in front of them for book rests, there were high old oak forms.

The pulpit, reading desk, and the clerk's desk were placed together by the north wall of the nave, between the large window and the barred up door, which is usually called the Batchelor's Door; and the font stood where it does now.

All the nave and the south aisle contained high square pews with doors, some of which were locked up from Sunday to Sunday as if they were private rooms. By the screen, which stood where the reading desk now is, there were no high pews but open benches, whose ends were the beautifully carved wood now supporting the book rests in the chancel. Over these

seats was a gallery for Gosford people: and all along the wall where the pulpit now is was the Water Eaton gallery; at the west end of the nave was a gallery for the choir, which used to sing to the accompaniment of the violincello, clarionet, bassoon, and many other instruments mentioned in the old verses on the Kidlington choir¹. Adjoining the choir gallery there was a fourth gallery, at the west end of the south aisle, for the boys' and girls' schools kept by Mr. John Allen and his sister close to the church. At the time of which we are writing there used to be a hundred boarders in the boys' school.

The North Transept was the vestry, and the parish meetings were held in it; the Sunday School, which was commenced in 1808 by Mr. Symonds (the Curate of Kidlington and afterwards Warden of Wadham College), used to be held in the north chancel aisle; the south chancel aisle and the adjoining transept were empty and unused. The ringers stood on the ground floor in the centre of the church (where the choir now sits) between the chancel and the nave screens, and the clock was in the Water Eaton gallery with a dial facing the congregation in the nave.

Service was held on Sundays at 11 and at 3; in the morning there was Morning Prayer, Litany, and the first part of the Holy Communion as far as the sermon, which were all read from the reading desk in the nave: the chancel was only used at the times when the Holy Communion was celebrated: this was eight times a year; viz. on Christmas Day, Easter Day, and Whitsun Day, and the Sundays next to those feasts and on two Sundays at Michaelmas. The Curate resided in Oxford and came out for Sunday services, and was sometimes called from Oxford on a week-day (no easy work for the Clerk before the times of railways) to perform a funeral or wedding service. But these latter duties were often performed by the Rectors of Hampton Poyle and Shipton, who were more easily summoned. The only week-day services were those on the four bread-days, for which sermons are provided, and on Christmas and on Good Friday.'

¹ The verses were printed by J. Oliver, George Street, Oxford.

APPENDIX TO THE HISTORY OF YARNTON.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS BETWEEN YARNTON AND BEGBROKE.

It is supposed from various remains dug up about here, both of human and animal bones and many pieces of ancient pottery, that here we are upon the site of an early British village. The people in all probability fortified themselves upon the mound between Yarnton and Bladon, called 'Round Castle,' and their cemetery, evidently extensive, lay in the Yarnton field now crossed by the railway.

The following account of these discoveries is taken from a paper¹ by Mr. W. B. Dawkins read in 1862:—

'In May, 1861, I had an opportunity of exploring a section of rising ground near Yarnton in the cutting of the Witney Railway, close to its junction with the main Oxford and Worcestershire. On the summit of the gravel pit is a black layer of earth from five feet to a few inches in thickness. As we examined this layer walking westward, we found pieces of pottery, rude and half baked, with bones and teeth of animals. The remains became more abundant as we walked westward. At ten yards from the place where the gravel ceased, at the depth of a foot we discovered a skeleton buried in a sitting posture with the face turned to the S.E. or S.S.E. A complete section of it had been made in cutting the embankment and half of the bones had been carried away. In November Mr. Dobbs and I were fortunate in discovering another skeleton quite perfect, which was buried at full length. The skull is now in the

¹ Oxford Architectural and Hist. Soc. vol. 1, p. 108.

osteological series in the new Museum. Some three or four years ago a considerable quantity of urns and human remains were found in getting gravel for the railway, about a quarter of a mile to the east of this spot. Unfortunately all the skeletons and bones have been lost or scattered among private collections, and of the urns only one has found its way to its proper resting-place in the Ashmolean. This urn, I am informed, at the time of its discovery had another one inside, which has disappeared. It was found at the depth of 8 feet from the surface, near the south side of the gravel pit now nearly filled up. The pieces of pottery scattered about the ploughed lands indicate that the burial grounds of this early race of men were of considerable extent in this locality. . . . Upon comparing the human remains from Standlake with those from Yarnton, though in the one case (the former) cremation appears to have been the rule, and in the other simple interment, there can be no doubt that they are both of the same date; the same animals, the same pottery, and the same flints point out the fact.'

The following is the account left us by Dr. Vaughan Thomas of the discovery of fossil remains in a part of 'the Park' at Yarnton. The loop line for the Worcester and Wolverhampton railway from Stratfield across the Woodstock road was made in 1854.

'During the progress of the work the following remains were found. At a depth of 18 feet from the surface a fine tusk about $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, with several teeth of "*Elephas Primigenius*"; two skulls of "*Bos Longifrons*"; several skulls of Antelope and Reindeer; seven teeth of "*Equus fossilis*"; the jaw of a wild Boar with fragments of British and Roman pottery, were found¹.'

These were all presented by Dr. Thomas to the Warwickshire Geological Society, of which he was a member.

In the University Museum in the Parks, Oxford, are also many remains of fossil animals from Yarnton.

Archæological discoveries in Yarnton. Appendix to Scientific Papers and Addresses, vol. 2, page 942.

During the years 1875 to 1877, both inclusive, an ancient burial-place was exposed in getting gravel for the railway to the south-west of the church on the north side of the railway station.

Whilst removing the soil two ditches of a semicircular form were opened into. These ditches were situated close to each other and

¹ Short account of Yarnton by Dr. Vaughan Thomas.

had the concavity of the semilune turned in opposite directions, as is shown by the plan by Sir H. Dryden. The ditches were filled with black earth, and in and near them the graves containing the skeletons were found. In May, 1876, Dr. Rolleston noted—

‘We found a skeleton in a grave sunk through the side of the ditch; there can be no reasonable doubt that the skeleton was placed there after the ditch had been filled in. This is confirmed by the fact that in another of these ditches two bodies were found, one on the top of the other, in 1875. I think the ditches may simply have been places to live in; very little has been found in them. After they were filled up the buriers simply hit upon this ditch as a place to dig a grave in and sank this grave, as it happens, within the limits of the ditch on either side. The graves were numerous, about two or three feet from the surface, about two or three feet in length, and about two feet in breadth. The bodies were buried in a contracted position, the knees close to the face and the heads pointed in various directions. A few iron implements, some animal’s bones, a drinking cup, a bone pin, and some pottery were found with them. In one grave a bronze torque or collar was found.’

In March and February, 1876, Dr. Rolleston mentions finding skeletons with a quantity of charred wood around them with a chipped flint and a bronze needle. In May he remarks—

‘These excavations in the form of elongated ditches must be considered in connection with the holes filled with black earth which distinguishes them from the gravel in which they are sunk. The men at work say they sometimes find these holes as much as 8 to 10 feet deep and are obliged to note them, as the black earth which they contain does not do for ballast. Can they just be sunk dwellings¹?

Nov. 1876. A Saxon interment, with head at west and feet at east, with spear, was discovered.

Most of the human and other remains are preserved in the University Museum at Oxford.’

So far this paper.

References to Yarnton in Phillips’ ‘Geology of Oxford,’ pages 38, 464.

‘The Low Level Gravel at Yarnton is as much as 12 and 16 feet deep, it is formed of many irregular layers of gravel and sand with their strips of clay; height above the sea 210 feet. It yielded at or near the bottom, where large pebbles of northern drift formed an almost solid bed, a profusion of teeth and tusks of “*Elephas primigenius*.” In the upper part were

¹ Similar ‘pit dwellings’ are to be seen upon the Cotswold Hills, especially upon the slopes of the Stroud and Nailsworth valleys. A rough shed of wood and thatch was all that was required to make an efficient shelter over them.

old British pit-graves with skeletons in the pits. This gravel spreads northwards up the sides of the curious hollow, which may have been an old channel of the Cherwell, to Kidlington station, where it yields a few shells of land and fresh water. To show the fluvial origin of this gravel we visited the large gravel pit near the station at Kidlington. We found shells lying 3 feet under the gravel in an argillaceous band, and to our surprise from some damp clay amongst the gravel we extracted small specimens of "*Ancylus fluviatilis*." In the sandy drifts mixed with this gravel at Yarnton to the depth of 10 feet we find land shells, "*Pupa muscorum*," "*Helix hispida*," "*Limnæa peregra*."

APPENDIX TO THE HISTORY OF BEGBROKE.

‘ROUND CASTLE.’ From Leland’s Itinerary, 1712.

‘It hath a double vallum. ’Tis a large and remarkable Fortification ; and I look upon it (provided it be really Roman, as for my part I do not doubt but it is) to have been formed much about the same time as Stunsfield.’

From Plot’s Natural History of Oxfordshire, 1677, p. 336.

‘From the round shape it was most probable that it was constructed by the Danes, but upon what occasion I could nowhere find.’

The assertion made by several publications that Dr. Plot declared that an underground passage existed between Begbroke Castle and the river arose from a misreading of his text. Mr. Marshall, in his history of Woodstock, remarks that the brackets in one of Dr. Plot’s sentences have been misplaced, thus leading to the curious result which a glance at a map would show to be impossible.

From Hearne’s Coll., vol. 3, p. 408 (Ox. Hist. Soc.).

‘’Tis a noble Fortification. Here was a Roman camp, and I look upon it to have been made about the year 367 in the reign of Valentinian the 1st when Britain was clear’d of barbarous Enemies by the famous General Theodosius. It hath a double vallum. The vallum on the north side is not visible. Divers bricks have been found here, but no coins that I know of.’

Dr. Plot¹ gives an account and the engraving of a small squared stone which was found in the garden of the Manor House at Yarnton. It was covered on all sides with unknown characters which he declared to be Chinese, and he spends many words in conjecturing how it came there. Warton², in noticing this, says, alluding to his own mention of British remains at Begbroke,

‘Plot might have been more precise in his description of this, as the inscription has as much claim to be British as Chinese, whereas he only says “the stone is like cheese.”’

¹ p. 356.

² Kiddington, p. 16.

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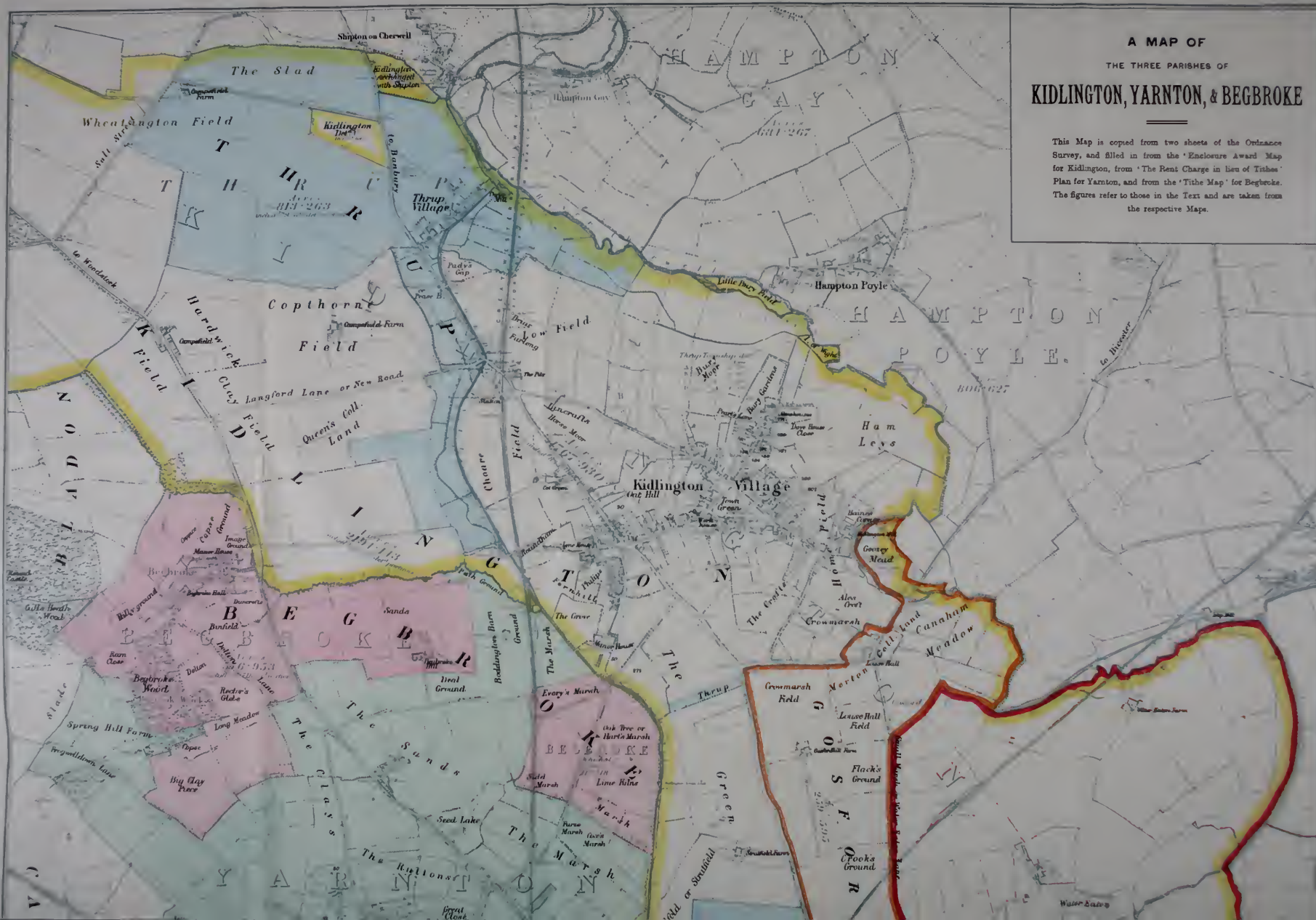
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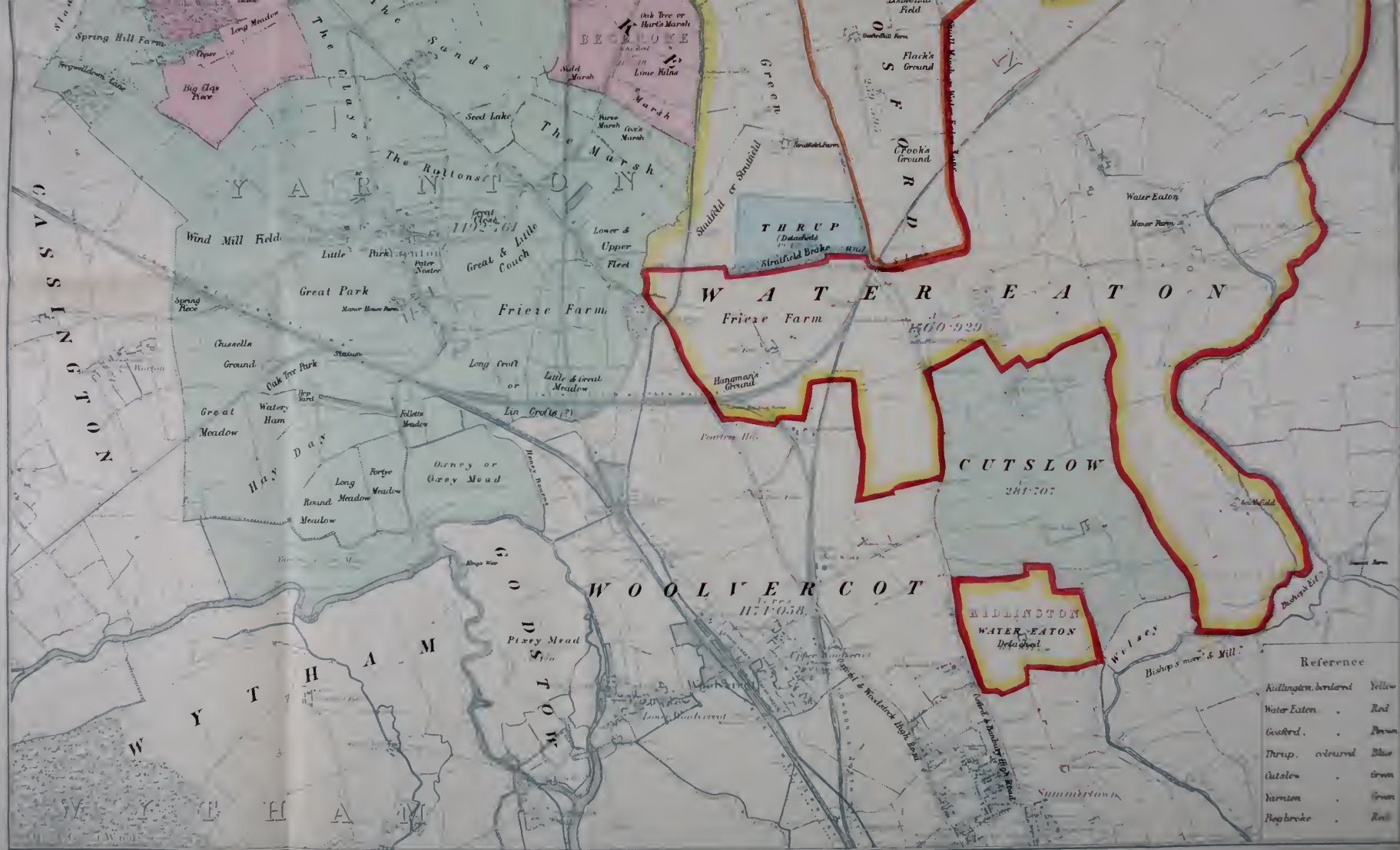
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A MAP OF
THE THREE PARISHES OF
KIDLINGTON, YARNTON, & BEGBROKE

This Map is copied from two sheets of the Ordnance Survey, and filled in from the 'Enclosure Award Map for Kidlington, from 'The Rent Charge in lieu of Tithes' Plan for Yarnton, and from the 'Tithe Map' for Begbroke. The figures refer to those in the Text and are taken from the respective Maps.





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